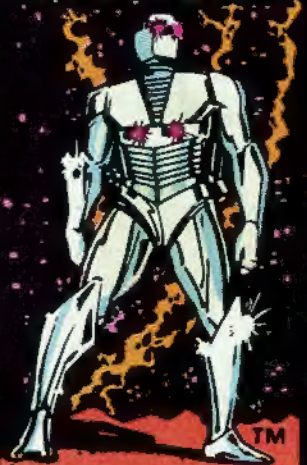


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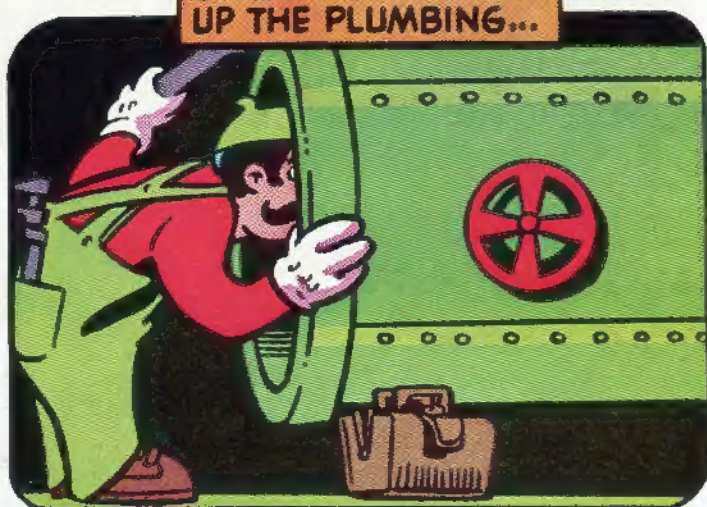
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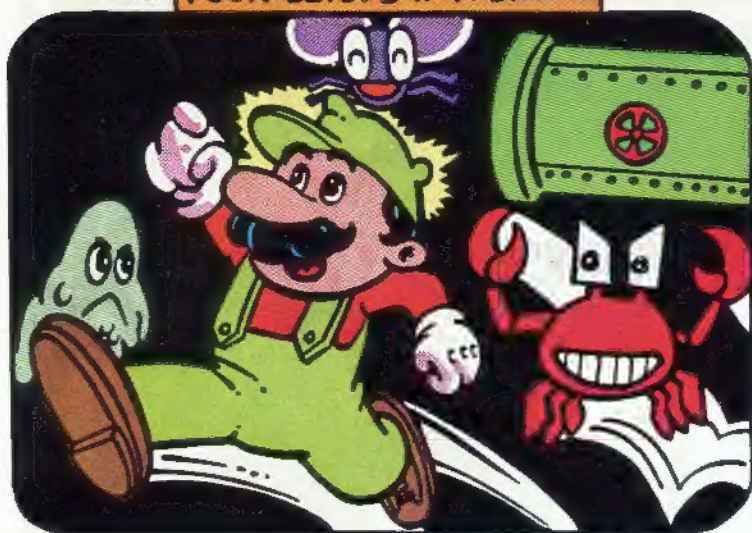
EXCITING 2
PLAYER ACTION!



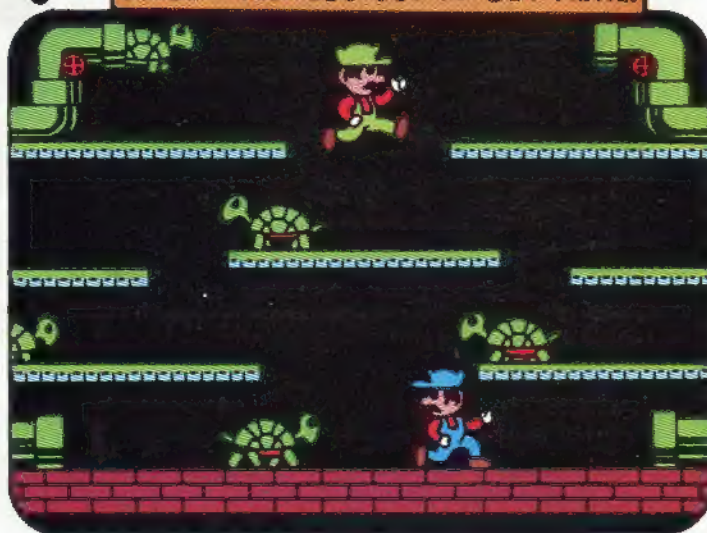
SOMETHING'S GUMMING
UP THE PLUMBING...



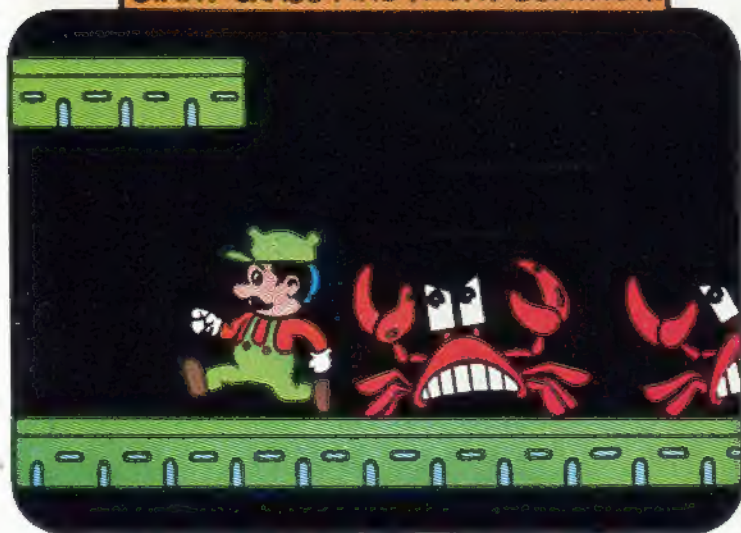
POOR LUIGI'S IN A BIND...



KILLER TURTLES OUT TO GET HIM...



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FIGHTER FLIES, HOLY CRIPES!
THEY'RE ALL COMING OUT THE PIPES!



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RICK JONES HAS BEEN HEIR TO DARK AND DESPAIRING DREAMS EVER SINCE HE FIRST DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS DYING FROM RADIATION-INDUCED CANCER.

BUT NEVER YET HAS HE BEEN SUBJECTED TO SUCH AWESOME AND APOCALYPTIC NIGHTMARES AS THESE THAT ASSAULT HIS SLUMBER NOW!

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WHOSE PURGATORY OF A PLANET IS THIS?!!

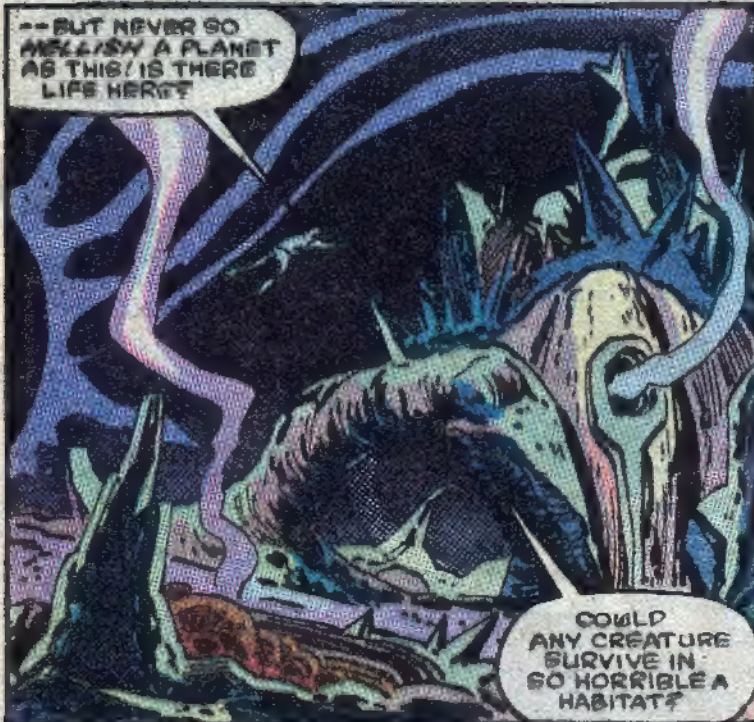
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THE QUESTION SEEMS TO TRIGGER A SHIFT IN RICK'S DREAM AND, IN A DISEMBODED STATE, HE PASSES AT A TREMENDOUS RATE OF SPEED OVER THE INFERNAL FACE OF THE PLANET.



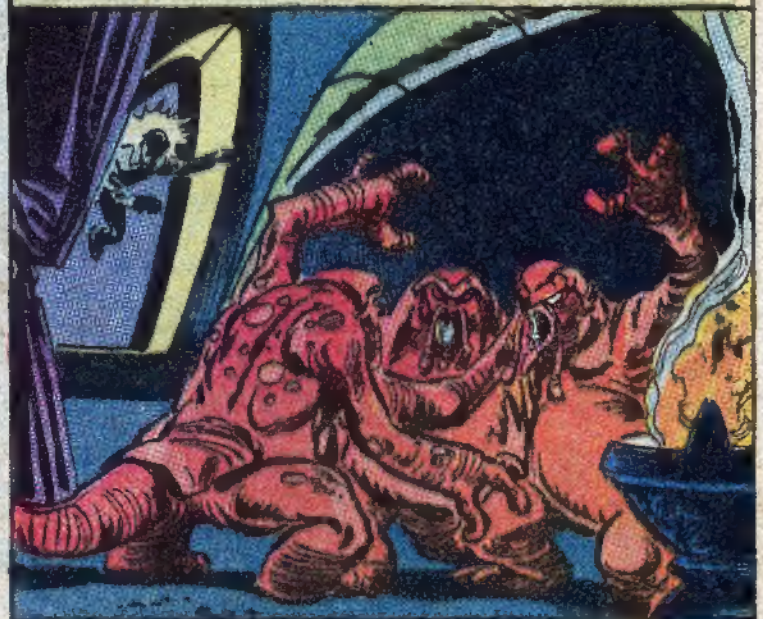
I'VE SEEN A HANDFUL OF ALIEN WORLDS IN MY TRAVELS WITH THE AVENGERS--

-- BUT NEVER SO HELLISH A PLANET AS THIS! IS THERE LIFE HERE?



COULD ANY CREATURE SURVIVE IN SO HORRIBLE A HABITAT?

HE SEES THEM THEN, THEIR SLIME-COVERED BODIES AT HOME ON THIS HORRIBLE WORLD, THEIR OBSCENE CHANTS ECHOING ITS WAILING WINDS. HE SEES THEM, THOUGH THEY APPARENTLY CANNOT PERCEIVE HIM...



... AND HE RECOGNIZES THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE.



DIRE WRAITHS!



HAVING SPENT THE PAST FEW WEEKS IN THE COMPANY OF THE SPACE-KNIGHTS ROM AND STARSHINE, AND S.H.I.E.L.D.'S X WRAITH-HUNTER RANGERS AS THEY COMBATED THESE ALIEN INVADERS, RICK JONES KNOWS HIS ENEMY WELL.

* SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW - ENFORCEMENT DIVISION.



I MUST BE ON WRAITHWORLD THEN, HOME PLANET OF THE DIRE WRAITHS--

-- WHICH ROM SAYS IS LOCATED FAR OUT IN SPACE AT THE HEART OF THE DREAD DARK NEBULA!



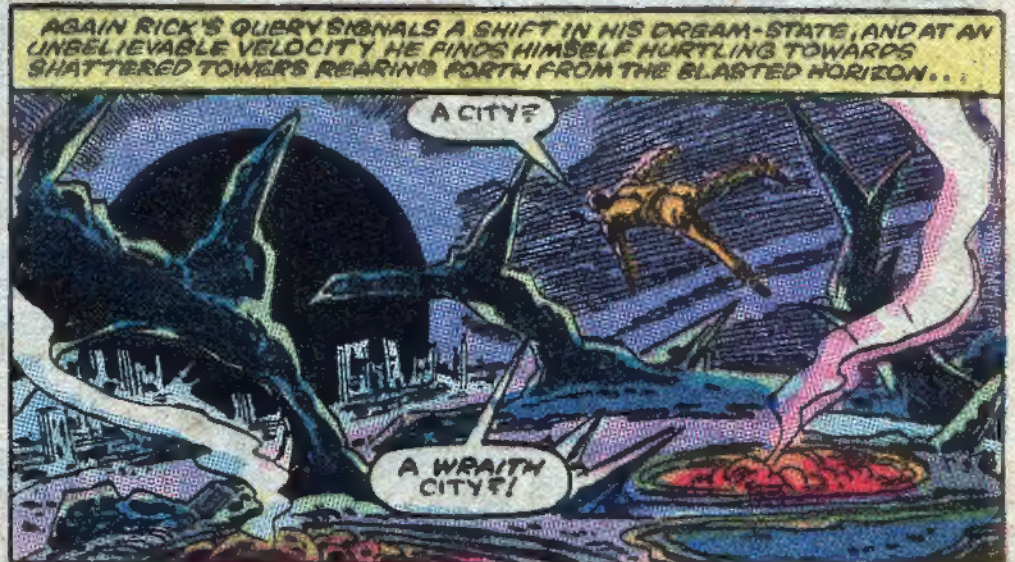
YES! IT ALL FITS, EVEN TO THE THE SORCEROUS BLACK SUN FROM WHICH THE WRAITHS DERIVE THEIR MYSTICAL POWERS!

THE EBONY ORB BLINDS BY THE VERY DENSITY OF ITS DARKNESS.



ITS FREEZING RAYS STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE WORLD ON FIRE BELOW.

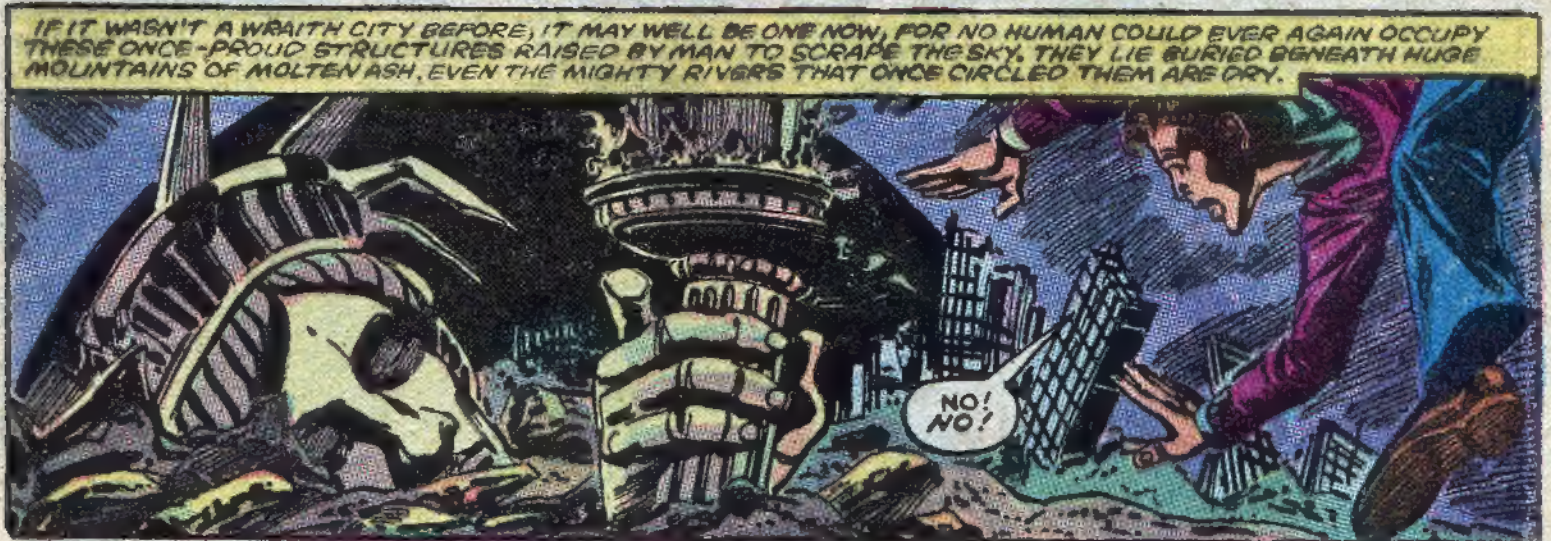
HOW COULD ANYTHING LIVE ON SUCH A WORLD?!



AGAIN RICK'S QUERY SIGNALS A SHIFT IN HIS DREAM-STATE, AND AT AN UNBELIEVABLE VELOCITY HE FINDS HIMSELF HURTLING TOWARDS SHATTERED TOWERS REARING FORTH FROM THE BLASTED HORIZON...

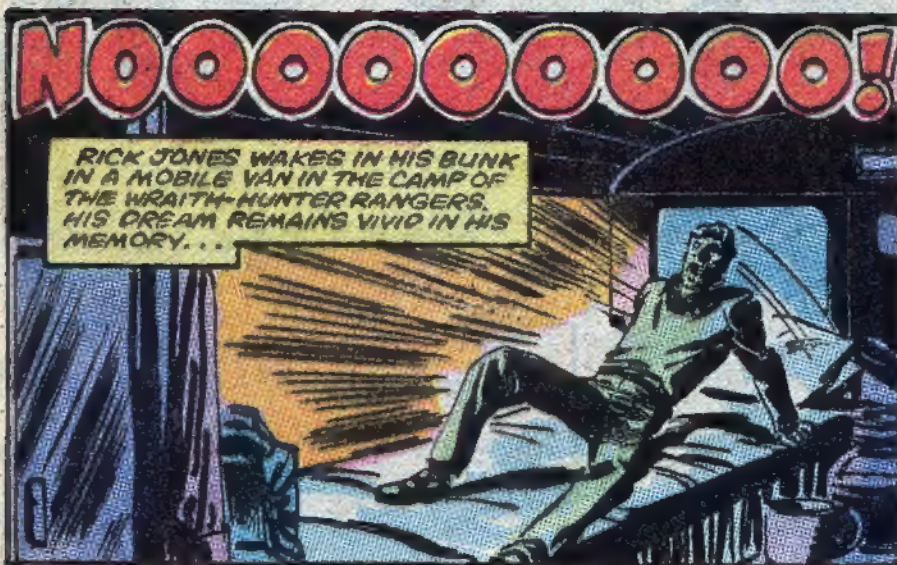
A CITY?

A WRAITH CITY!

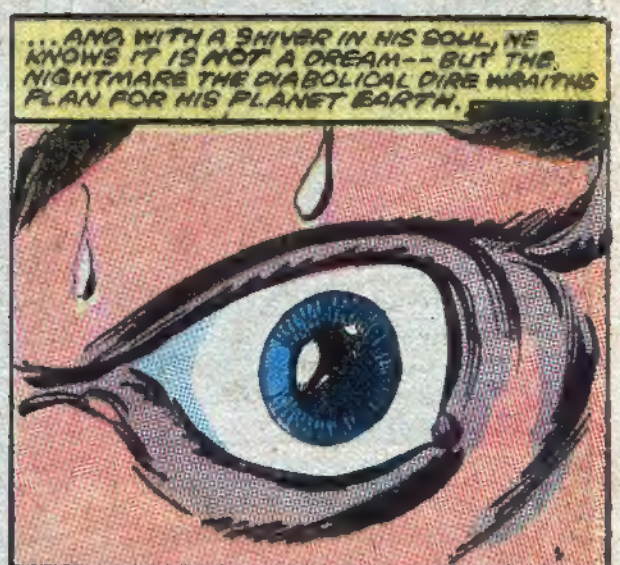


IF IT WASN'T A WRAITH CITY BEFORE, IT MAY WELL BE ONE NOW, FOR NO HUMAN COULD EVER AGAIN OCCUPY THESE ONCE-PROUD STRUCTURES RAISED BY MAN TO SCRAPE THE SKY. THEY LIE BURIED BENEATH HUGE MOUNTAINS OF MOLTEN ASH, EVEN THE MIGHTY RIVERS THAT ONCE CIRCLED THEM ARE DRY.

NO! NO!



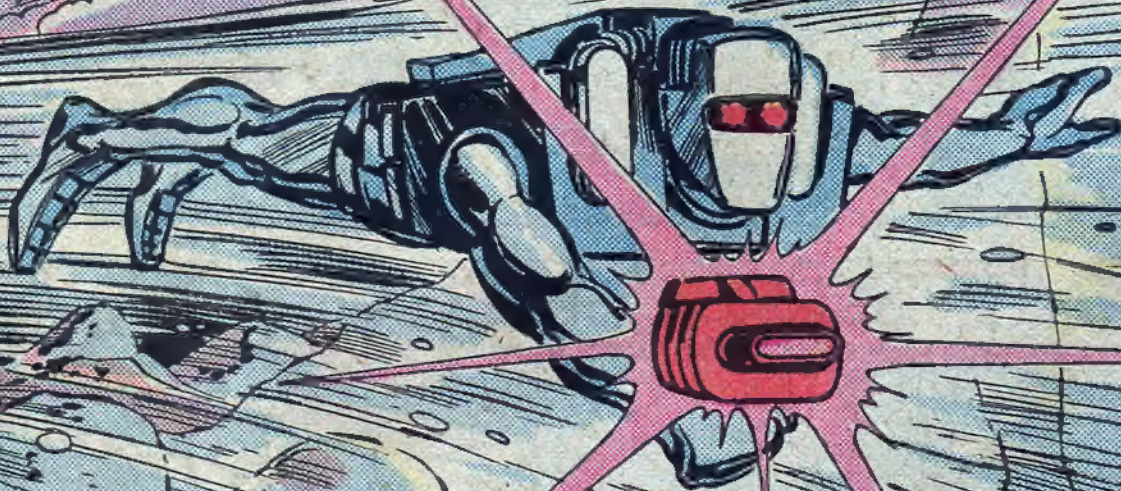
RICK JONES WAKES IN HIS BUNK IN A MOBILE VAN IN THE CAMP OF THE WRAITH-HUNTER RANGERS. HIS DREAM REMAINS VIVID IN HIS MEMORY...



... AND, WITH A SHIVER IN HIS SOUL, HE KNOWS IT IS NOT A DREAM-- BUT THE NIGHTMARE THE DIABOLICAL DIRE WRAITHS PLAN FOR HIS PLANET EARTH.

TOTALLY OBLITERATED BY DRIVING SHEETS OF FREEZING SNOW, A SHARP CONTRAST TO THE INFERNAL ARIDITY OF THE HELLISH PLANET OF RICK JONES' DREAM, ROM--GREATEST OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS--SOARS THROUGH THE TUMULTUOUS SKY.

THE UNNATURAL SNOW HAS CONTINUED NIGH UNTO A WEEK NOW, CONFOUNDING EARTH'S METEOROLOGISTS, AND EXCITING THOSE PRONE TO CRY DOOM AT EVERY UNEXPLAINABLE EVENT TO PRONOUNCE THIS THE IMMINENT APPROACH OF THE JUDGMENT DAY.



ROM WONDERS AT THE SAVAGE SEVERITY OF THE STORM, AND PONDER'S WHETHER IT IS INDEED EARTHLY IN ORIGIN OR YET ANOTHER MYSTIC MENACE CONJURED FORTH BY THE DEMON-SPAWNED DIRE WRAITHS...*

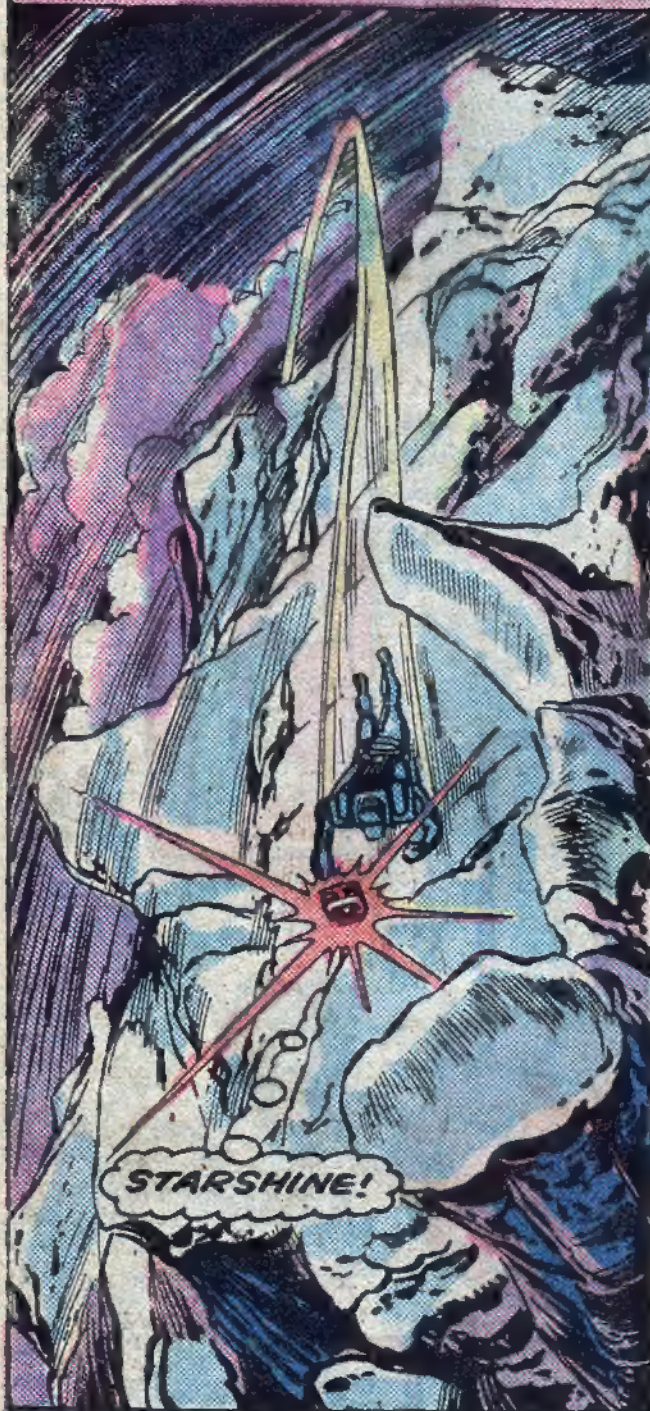
*THE TRUE SECRET OF THE STORM CAN BE FOUND IN THE PAGES OF THOR #349.

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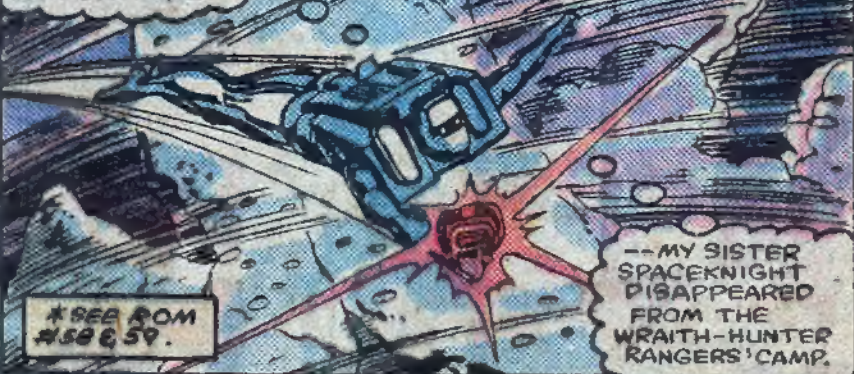
DISCOVER FRUIT CHEWY NEWTONS COOKIES.

BUT FOR THE MOST PART HE IGNORES IT, HIS SPACEKNIGHT ARMOR UNAFFECTED BY THE COLD, HIS CYBORG EYES EVER SCANNING THE SNOW-SCAPE FOR SOME SIGHT OF THE WOMAN HE LOVES!



STARSHINE!

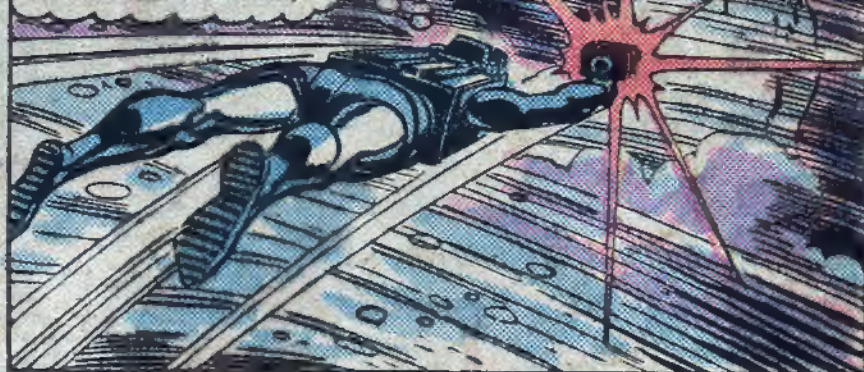
IN THE WAKE OF OUR VICTORY OVER THE PIRE WRAITHS IN CANADA--



*SEE FROM #158 & 59.

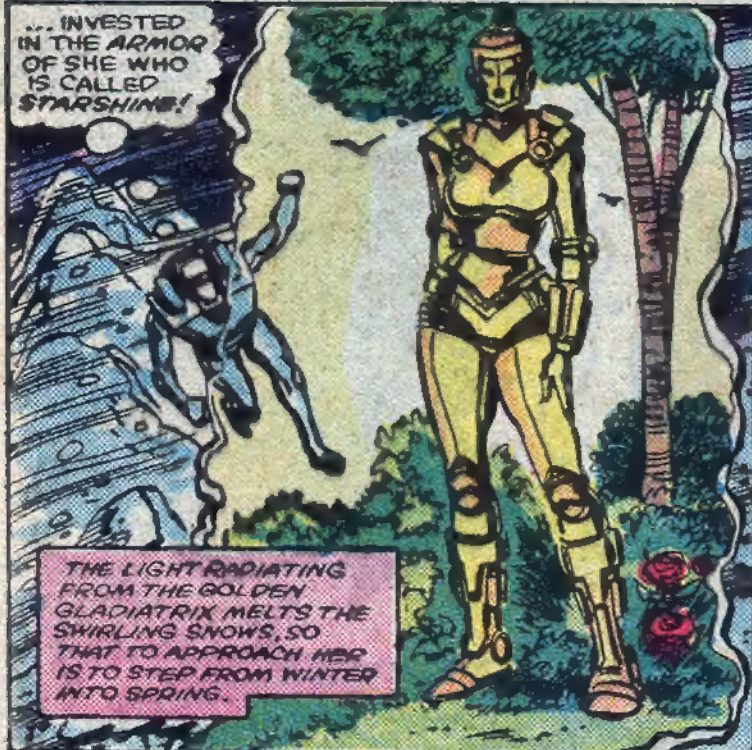
-- MY SISTER SPACEKNIGHT DISAPPEARED FROM THE WRAITH-HUNTER RANGERS' CAMP.

SHE SEEMED TROUBLED, AND I WOULD COMFORT HER. BUT THAT GLOW ON YONDER PEAK...



IT CAN ONLY BE THE THE LIVING LIGHT OF GALADOR...

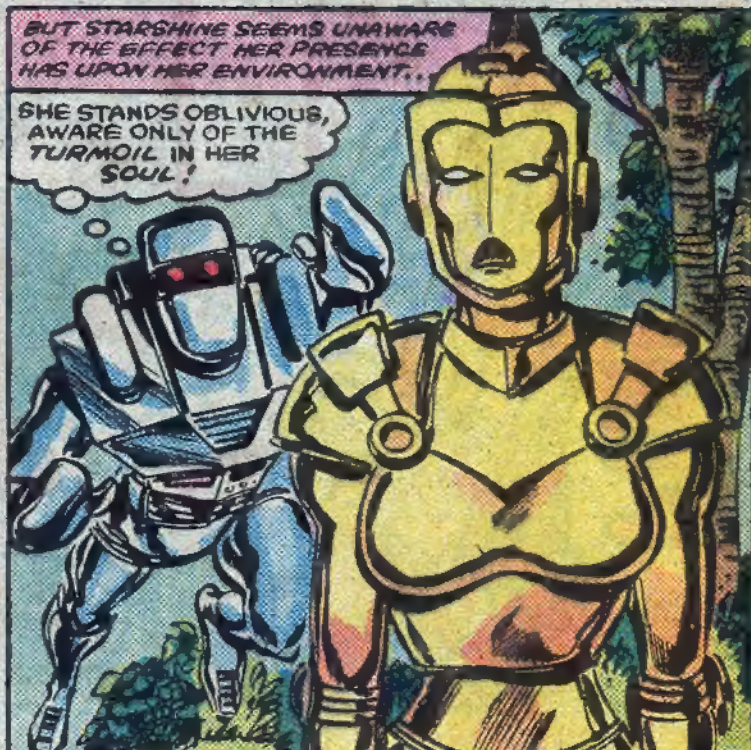
... INVESTED IN THE ARMOR OF SHE WHO IS CALLED STARSHINE!



THE LIGHT RADIATING FROM THE GOLDEN GLADIATRIX MELTS THE SWIRLING SNOWS, SO THAT TO APPROACH HER IS TO STEP FROM WINTER INTO SPRING.

BUT STARSHINE SEEMS UNAWARE OF THE EFFECT HER PRESENCE HAS UPON HER ENVIRONMENT...

SHE STANDS OBLIVIOUS, AWARE ONLY OF THE TURMOIL IN HER SOUL!





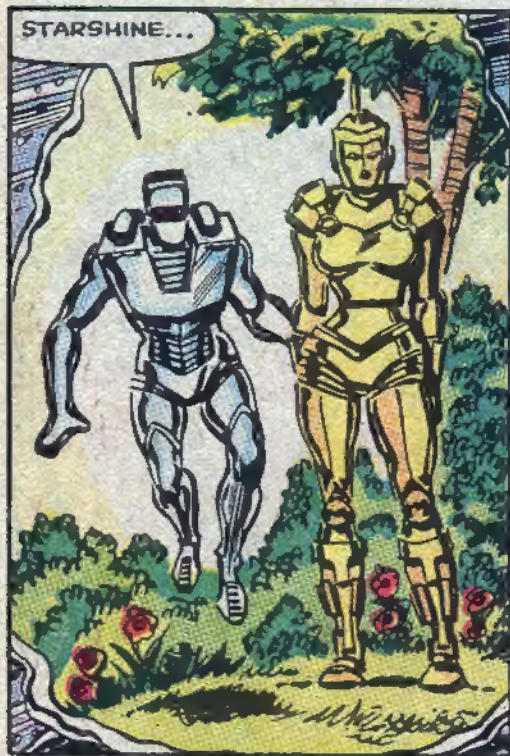
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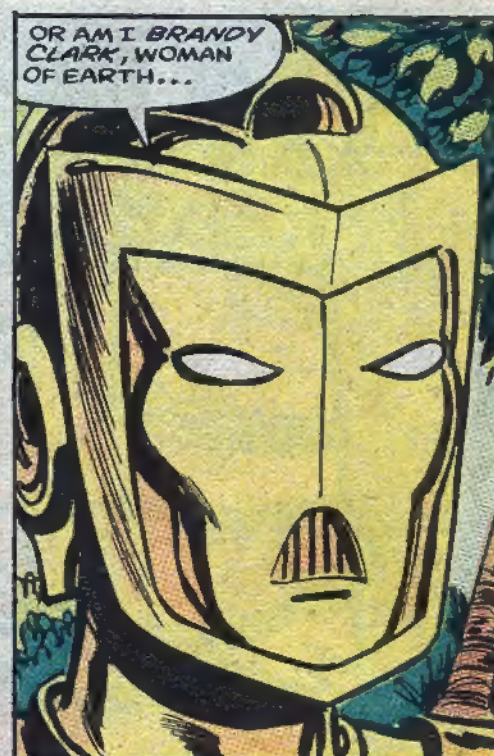
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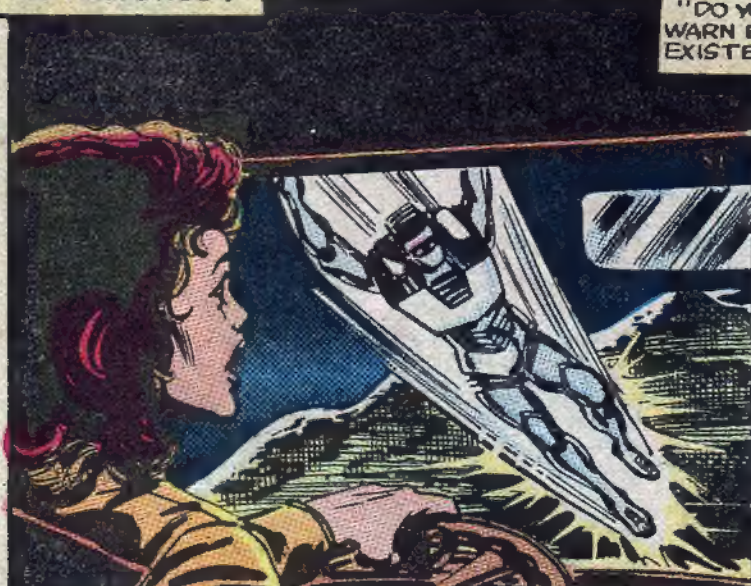


IS THAT WHO I AM, ROM? STARSHINE, GLISTENING GODDESS OF GALAPOR, WIELDER OF THE LETHAL LIVING LIGHT?

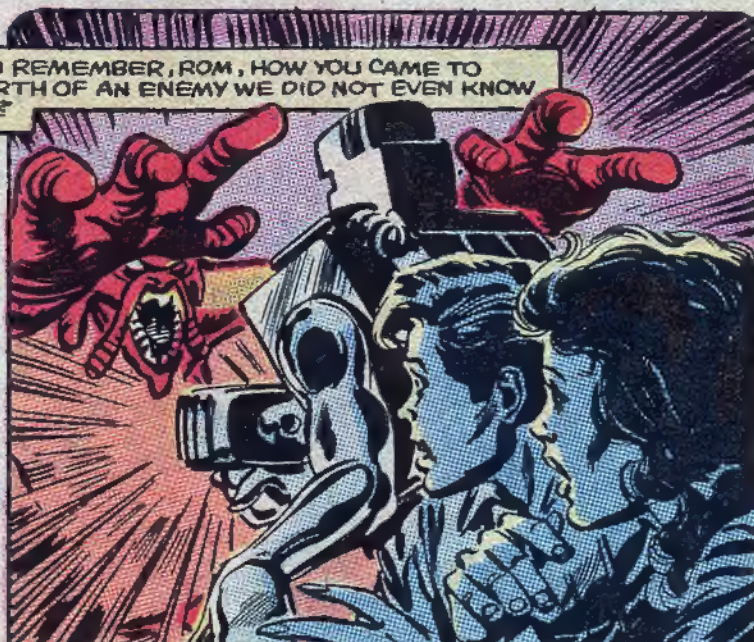


OR AM I BRANDY CLARK, WOMAN OF EARTH...

"... WHO FIRST WITNESSED YOUR ARRIVAL ON A LONELY HIGHWAY WHAT NOW SEEMS LIKE LONG CENTURIES AGO?"



"DO YOU REMEMBER, ROM, HOW YOU CAME TO WARN EARTH OF AN ENEMY WE DID NOT EVEN KNOW EXISTED?"

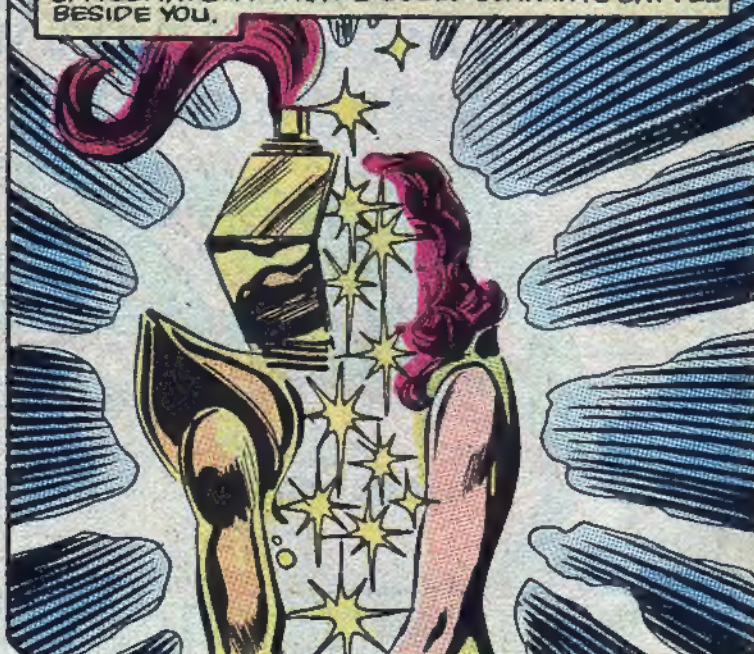


"HOW WE MISTRUSTED AND FEARED YOU, UNTIL YOU DEMONSTRATED THAT THE DIRE WRAITHS *DID* EXIST BY SAVING US FROM THEM TIME AND TIME AGAIN?"

"SO TO PREVENT THE WRAITH ENSLAVEMENT OF EARTH, WE MADE YOUR FIGHT *OUR* FIGHT, HELPING YOU AS BEST AS WE COULD."

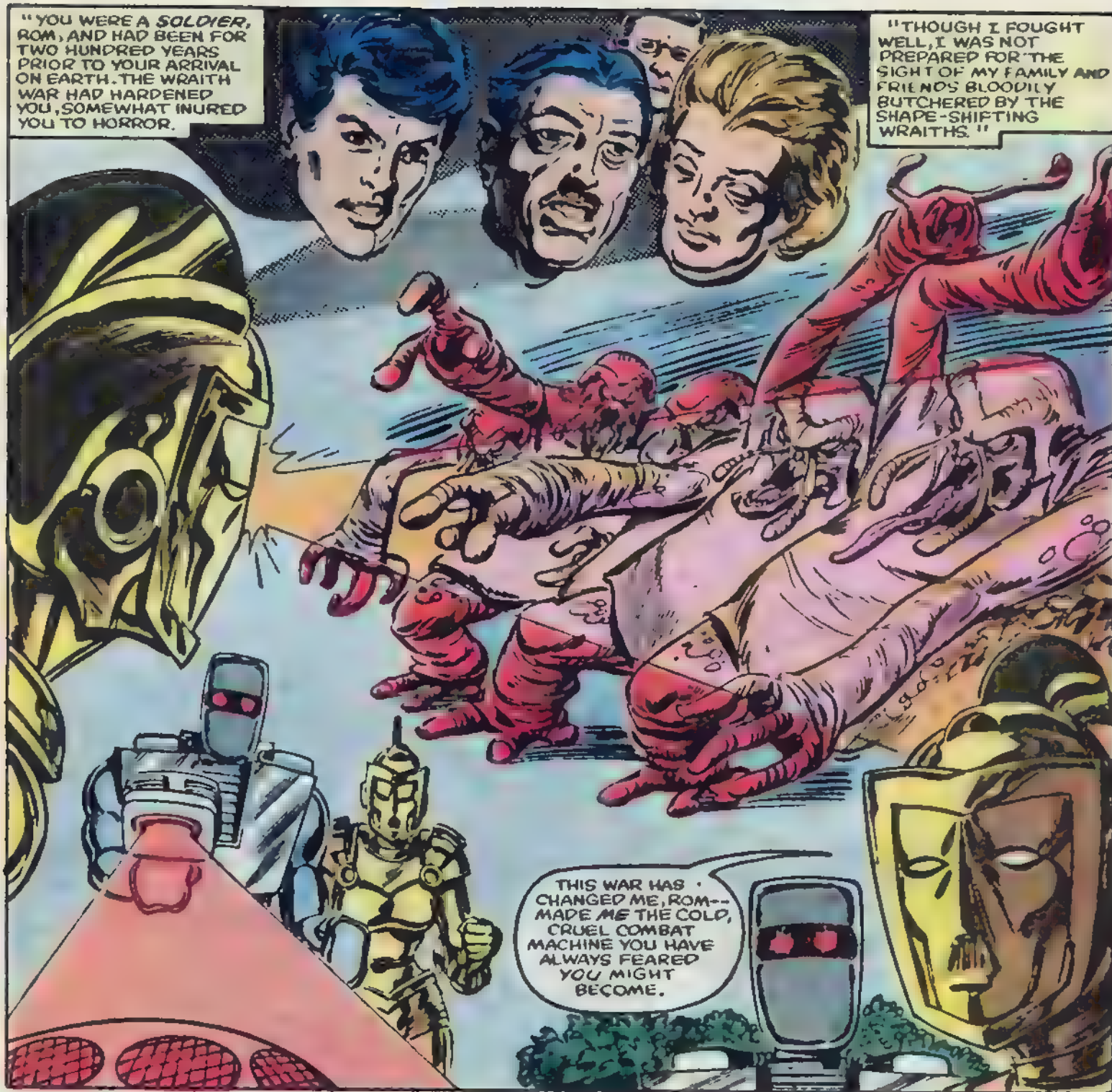


"BUT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU, AND WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF, BECAME A *SPACEKNIGHT* THAT I COULD SOAR INTO BATTLE BESIDE YOU."



"YOU WERE A SOLDIER, ROM, AND HAD BEEN FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL ON EARTH. THE WRAITH WAR HAD HARDENED YOU, SOMEWHAT INURED YOU TO HORROR.

"THOUGH I FOUGHT WELL, I WAS NOT PREPARED FOR THE SIGHT OF MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS BLOODILY BUTCHERED BY THE SHAPE-SHIFTING WRAITHS."

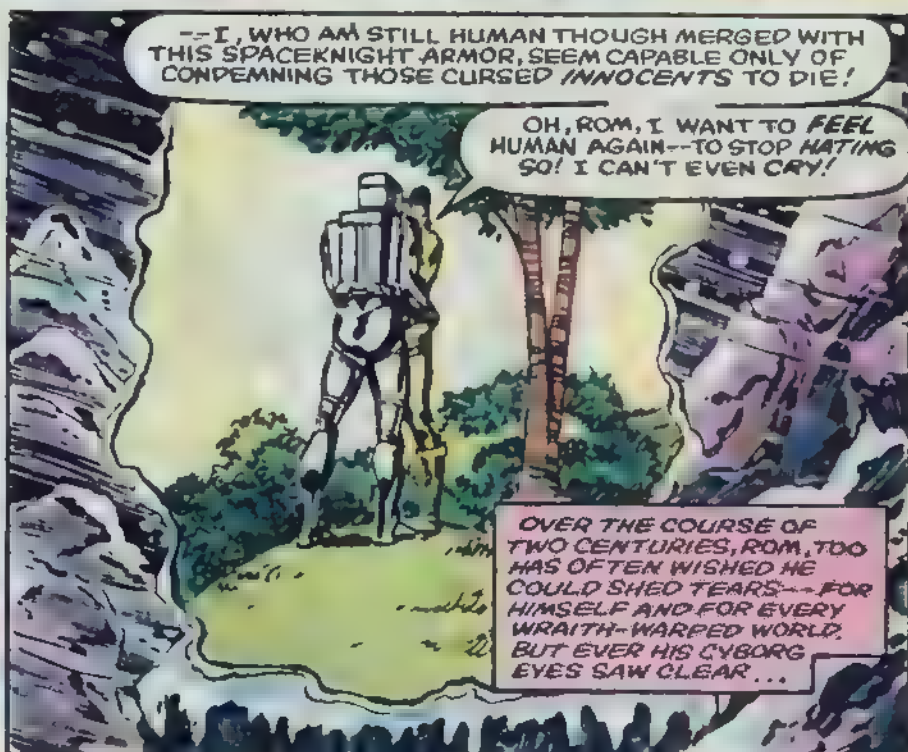


WHERE YOU, A CYBORG, SEEM ABLE TO TEMPER YOUR HATRED OF WRAITHKIND WITH MERCY, AT LEAST TOWARDS THOSE TRANSFORMED BY WRAITH SORCERY INTO MONSTERS--



--I, WHO AM STILL HUMAN THOUGH MERGED WITH THIS SPACEKNIGHT ARMOR, SEEM CAPABLE ONLY OF CONDEMNING THOSE CURSED INNOCENTS TO DIE!

OH, ROM, I WANT TO FEEL HUMAN AGAIN--TO STOP HATING SO! I CAN'T EVEN CRY!



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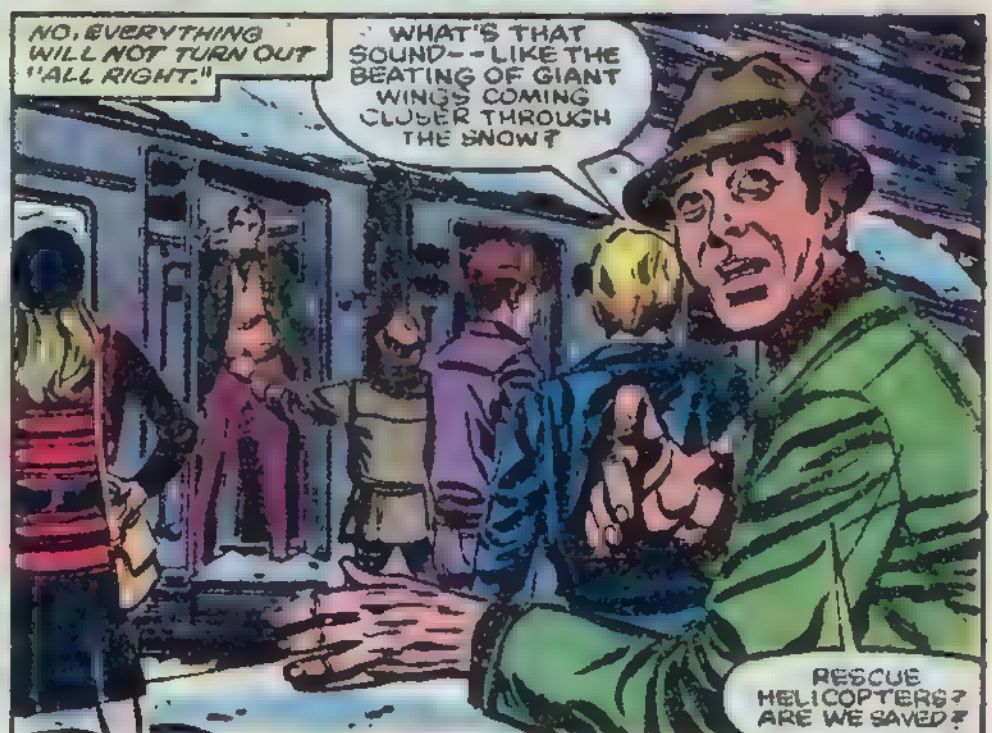
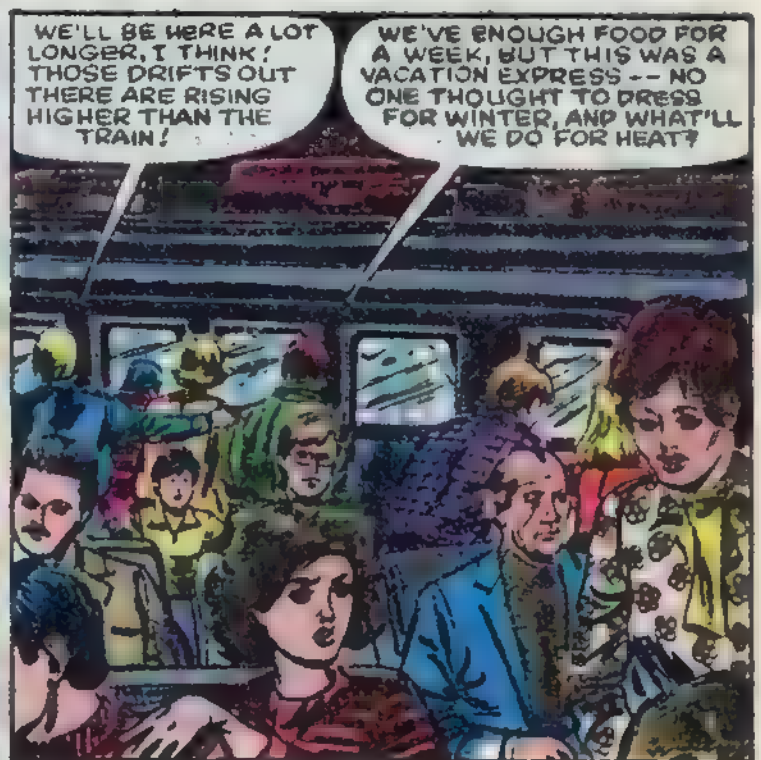
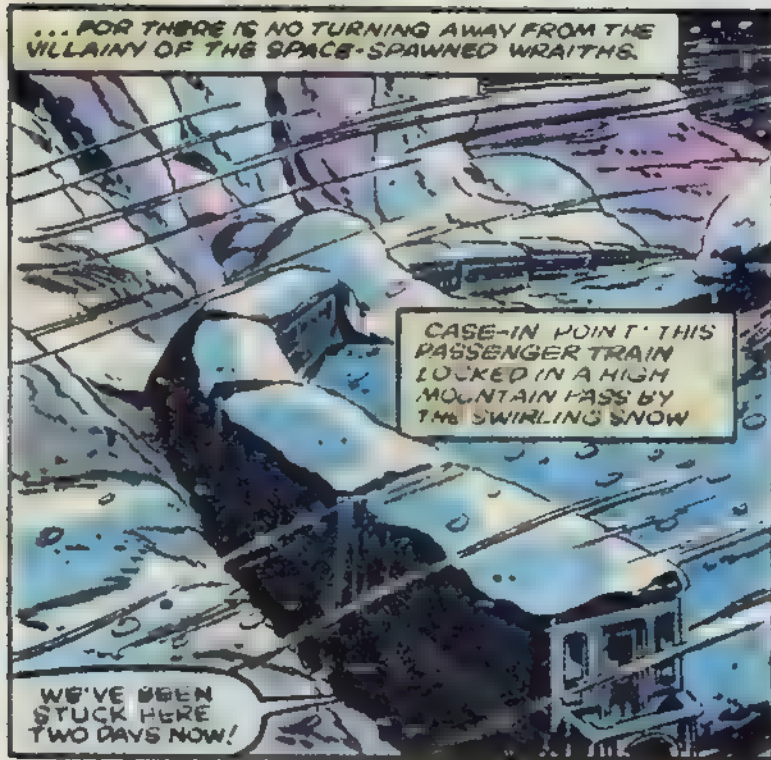
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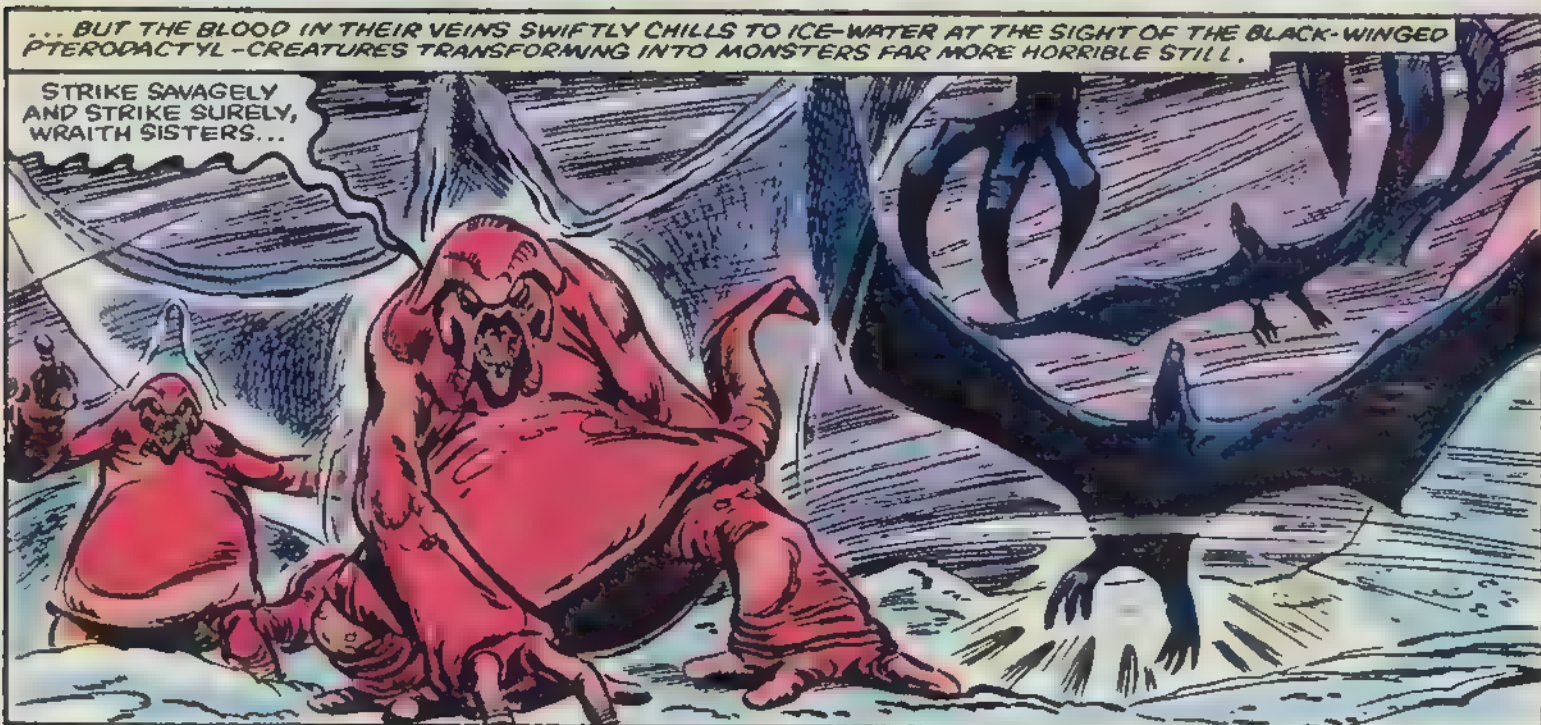
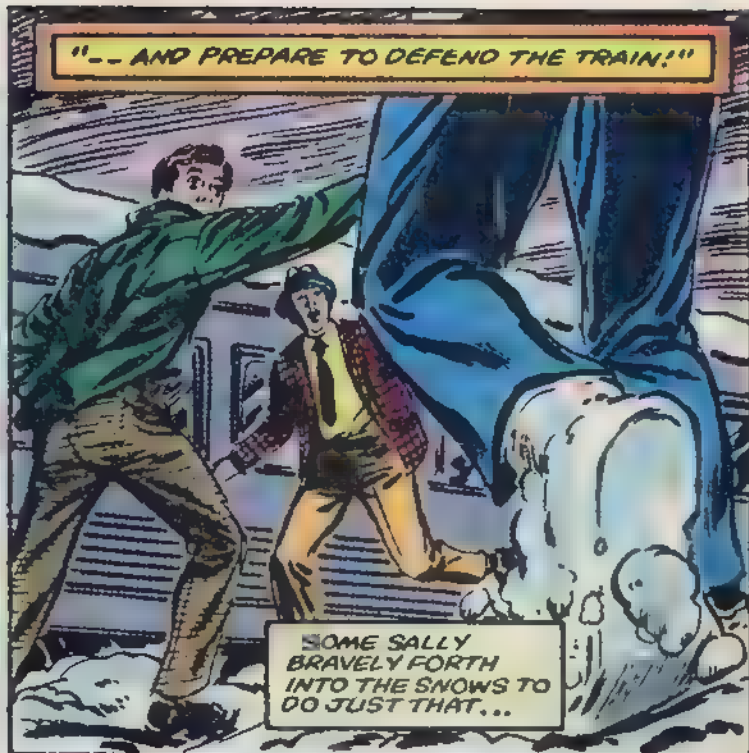
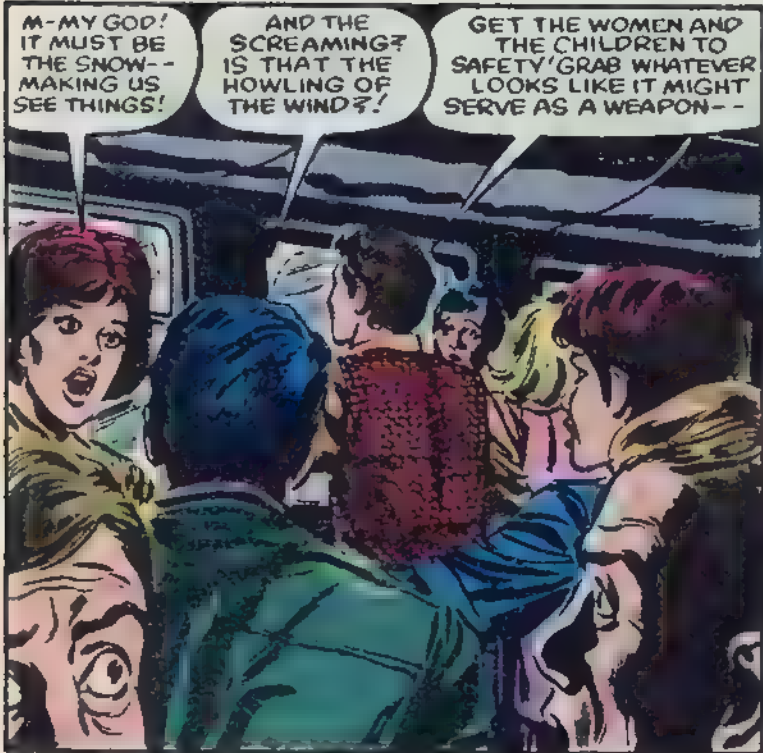
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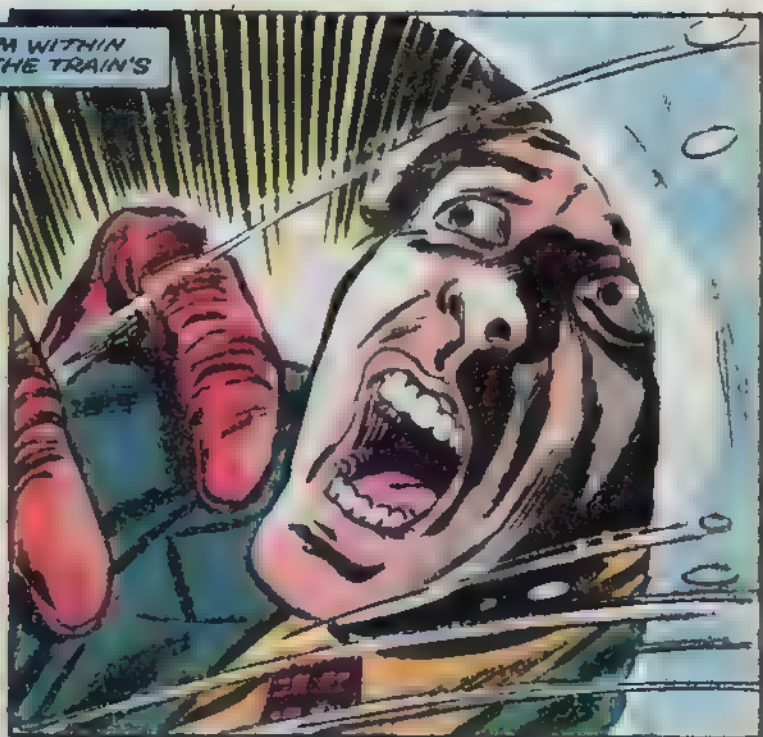
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WITHIN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, THE VIRGIN SNOW IS STAINED CRIMSON. VACATIONERS WHO WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN SAFE PASSAGE TO SOME COASTAL RESORT LIE DEAD, THEIR CORPSES FREEZING. WITHOUT HESITATION, THE WRAITHS PROCEED TO STORM THE SNOWBOUND TRAIN FOR FURTHER PREY...



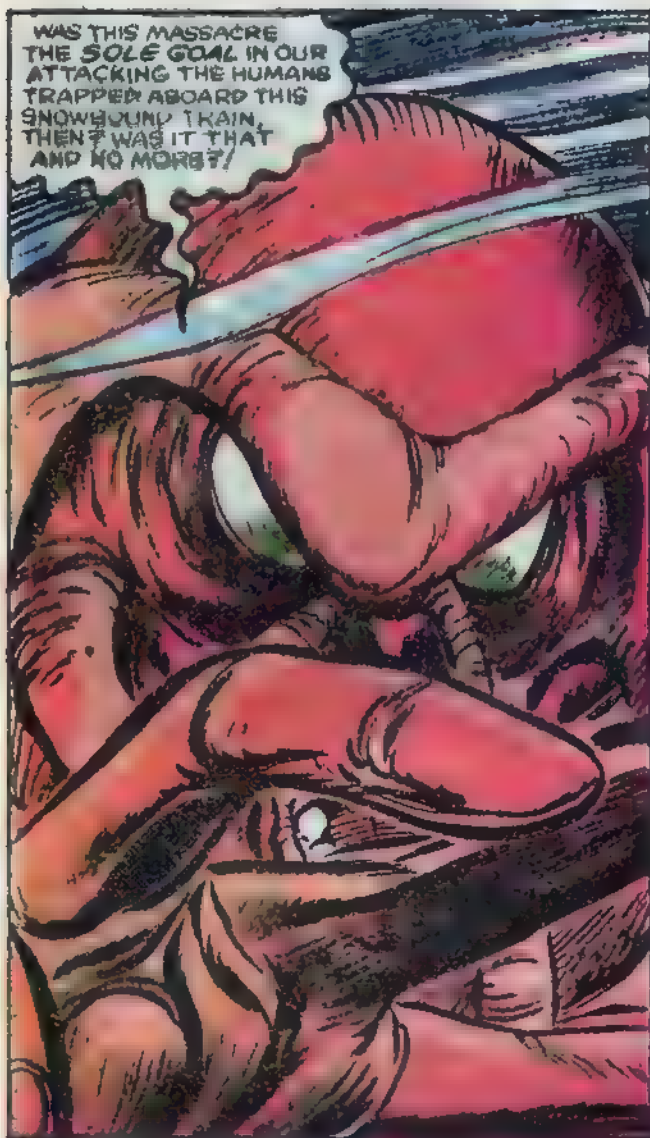
THE SCREAMS FROM WITHIN ARE MUFFLED BY THE TRAIN'S SHROUD OF SNOW.



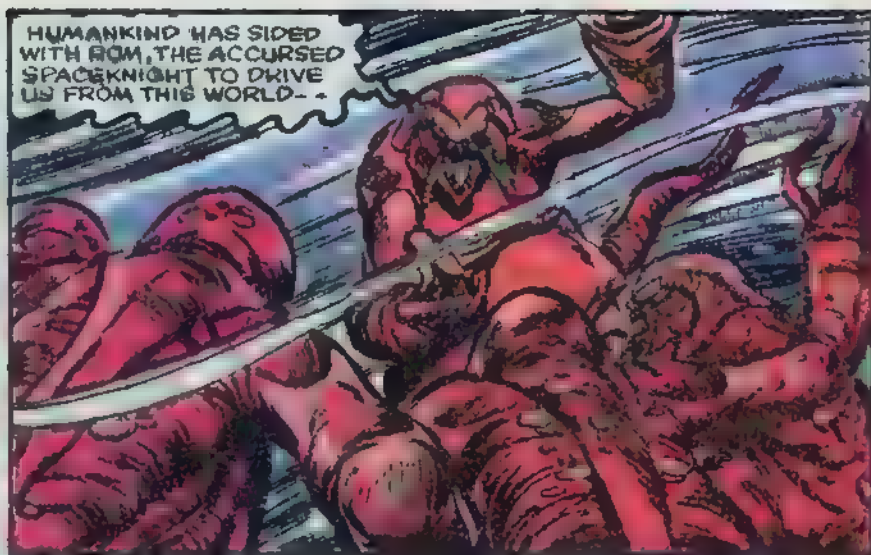
AND THEN THE SCREAMING STOPS.



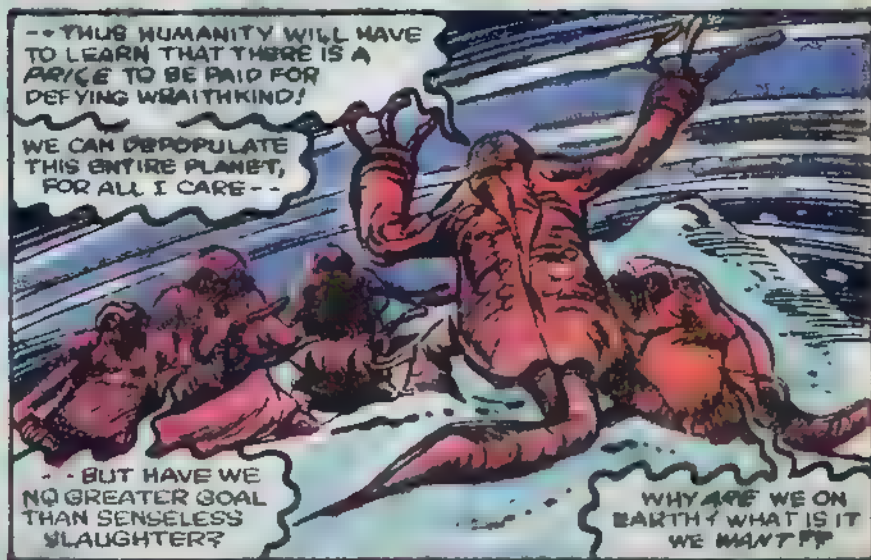
THAT WHICH WE CAME TO DO IS DONE, SISTERS! THE HUMANS ARE NO MORE!



WAS THIS MASSACRE
THE SOLE GOAL IN OUR
ATTACKING THE HUMANS
TRAPPED ABOARD THIS
SNOWBOUND TRAIN,
THEN? WAS IT THAT
AND NO MORE?



HUMANKIND HAS SIDED
WITH ROM, THE ACCURSED
SPACEKNIGHT TO DRIVE
US FROM THIS WORLD--

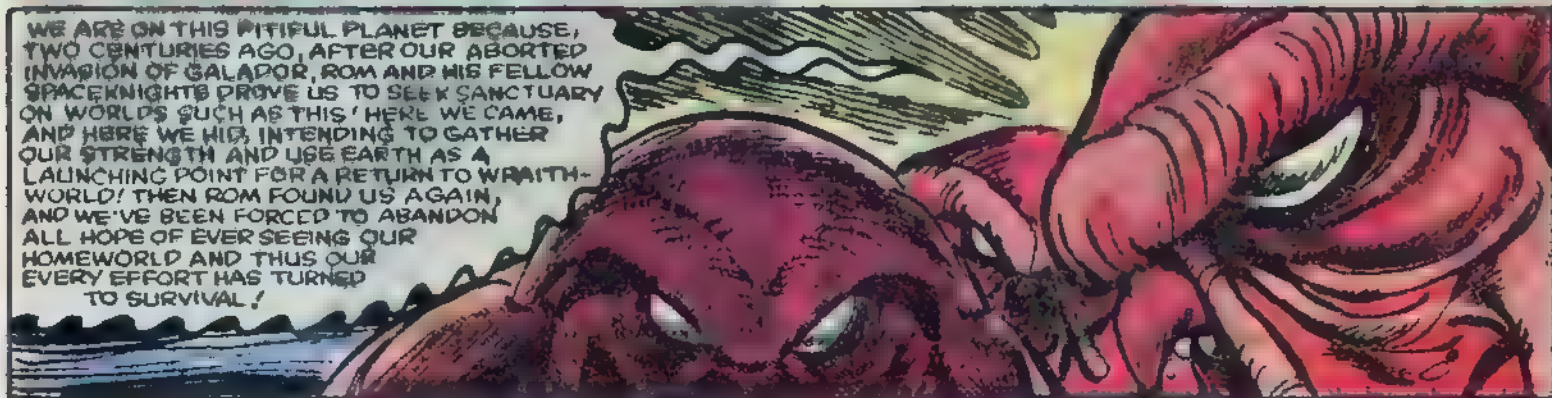


--THUS HUMANITY WILL HAVE
TO LEARN THAT THERE IS A
PRICE TO BE PAID FOR
DEFYING WRAITHKIND!

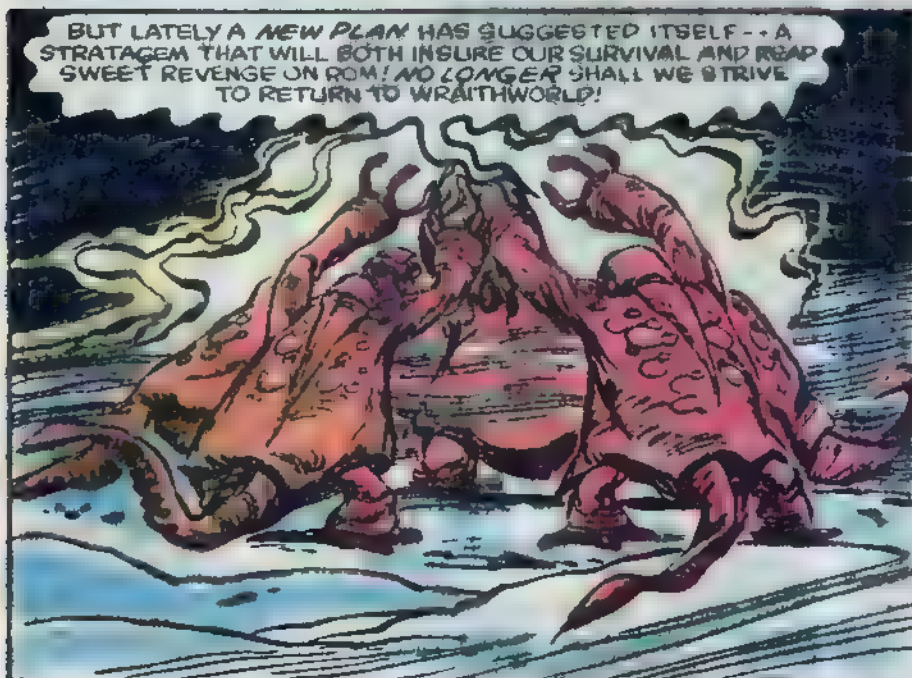
WE CAN DEPOPULATE
THIS ENTIRE PLANET,
FOR ALL I CARE--

--BUT HAVE WE
NO GREATER GOAL
THAN SENSELESS
SLAUGHTER?

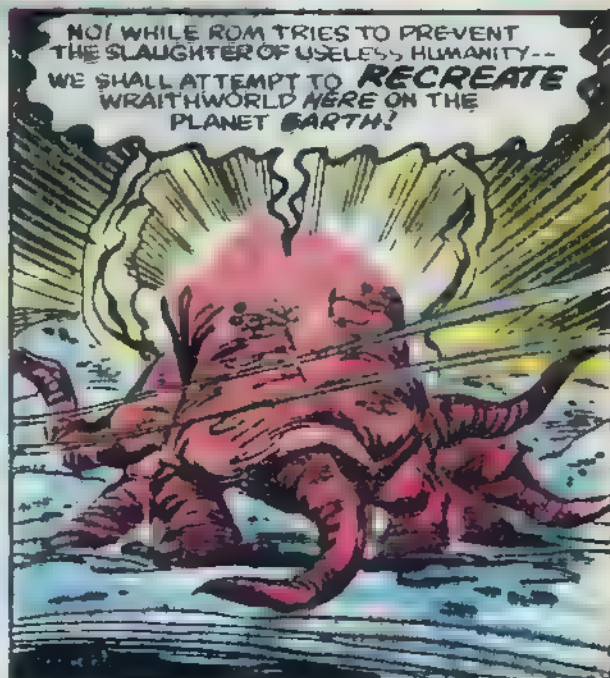
WHY ARE WE ON
EARTH? WHAT IS IT
WE WANT??



WE ARE ON THIS PITIFUL PLANET BECAUSE,
TWO CENTURIES AGO, AFTER OUR ABORTED
INVASION OF GALADOR, ROM AND HIS FELLOW
SPACEKNIGHTS PROVE US TO SEEK SANCTUARY
ON WORLDS SUCH AS THIS! HERE WE CAME,
AND HERE WE HID, INTENDING TO GATHER
OUR STRENGTH AND USE EARTH AS A
LAUNCHING POINT FOR A RETURN TO WRAITH-
WORLD! THEN ROM FOUND US AGAIN,
AND WE'VE BEEN FORCED TO ABANDON
ALL HOPE OF EVER SEEING OUR
HOMEWORLD AND THUS OUR
EVERY EFFORT HAS TURNED
TO SURVIVAL!



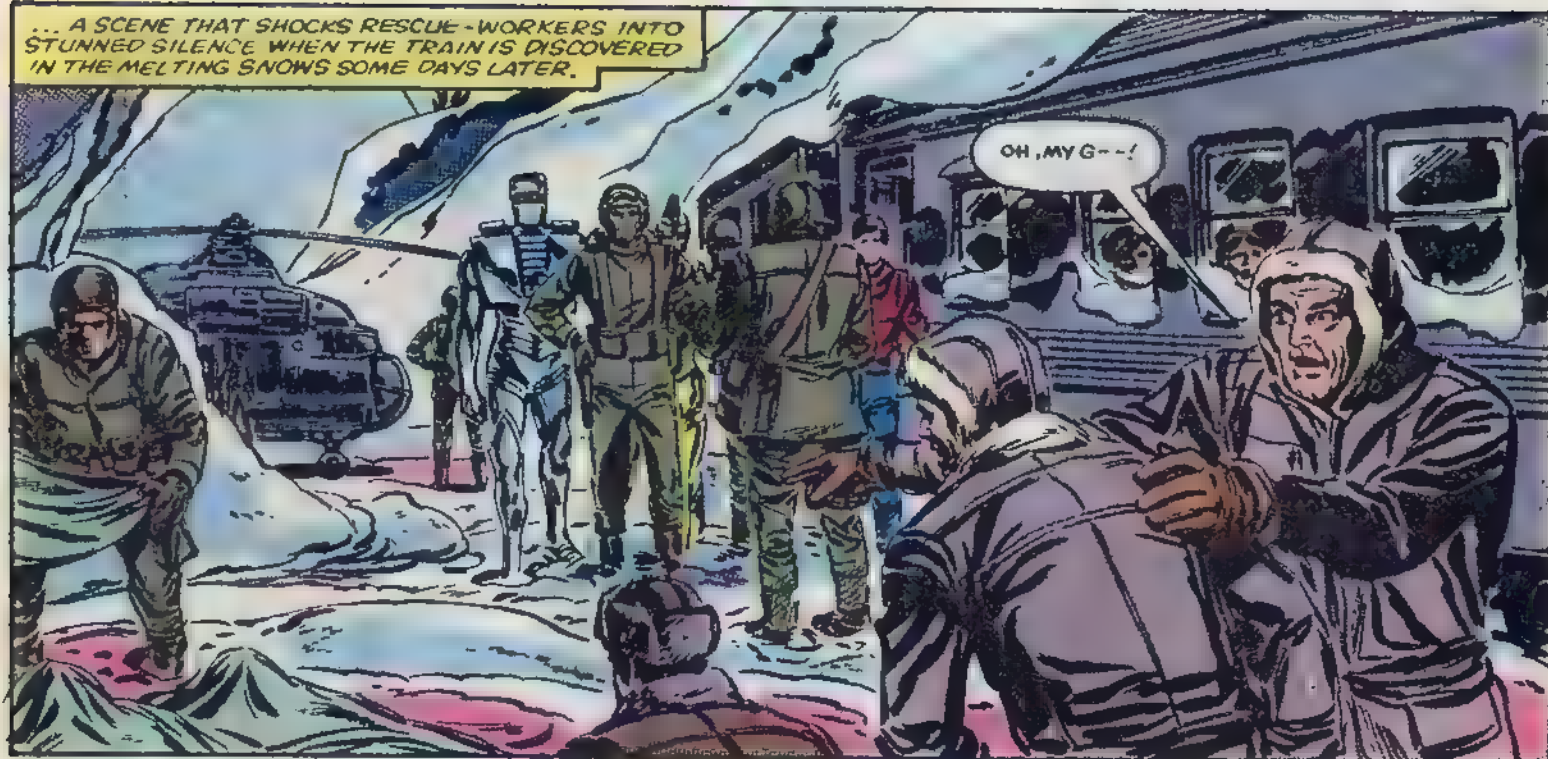
BUT LATELY A NEW PLAN HAS SUGGESTED ITSELF--A
STRATAGEM THAT WILL BOTH INSURE OUR SURVIVAL AND REAP
SWEET REVENGE ON ROM! NO LONGER SHALL WE STRIVE
TO RETURN TO WRAITHWORLD!



NO! WHILE ROM TRIES TO PREVENT
THE SLAUGHTER OF USELESS HUMANITY--
WE SHALL ATTEMPT TO **RECREATE**
WRAITHWORLD HERE ON THE
PLANET EARTH!

UTTERING AN OBSCURE INCANTATION, THE DIRE WRAITHS DEPART THE SCENE OF THEIR SLAUGHTER...

... A SCENE THAT SHOCKS RESCUE-WORKERS INTO STUNNED SILENCE WHEN THE TRAIN IS DISCOVERED IN THE MELTING SNOWS SOME DAYS LATER.



WE CAME HERE ON A RESCUE MISSION, BUT THERE'S NO RESCUING TO BE DONE!

GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF, MAN-- AND NOT A WORD OF THIS TO ANYONE!

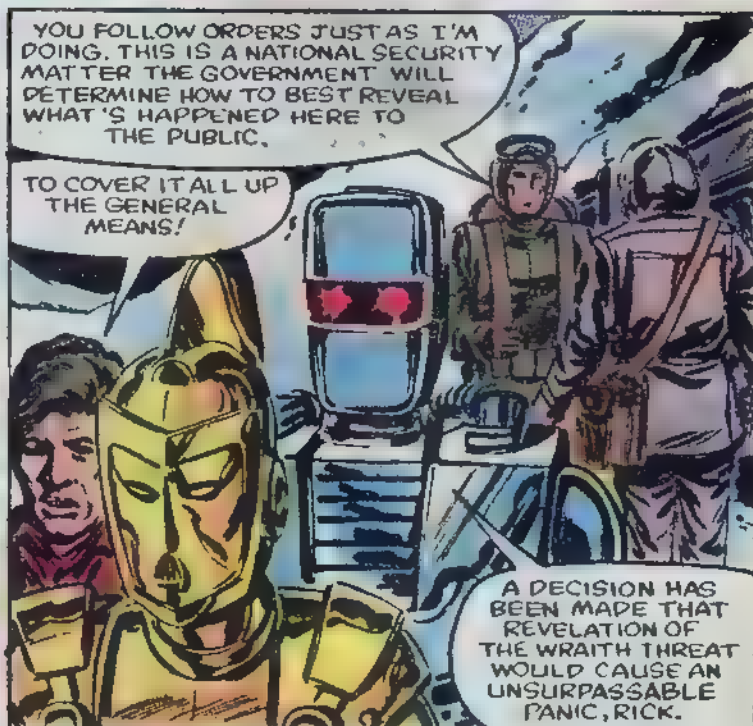
GENERAL LOCKLIN / HOW DO I KEEP QUIET ABOUT A MASSACRE!



YOU FOLLOW ORDERS JUST AS I'M DOING. THIS IS A NATIONAL SECURITY MATTER THE GOVERNMENT WILL DETERMINE HOW TO BEST REVEAL WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE TO THE PUBLIC.

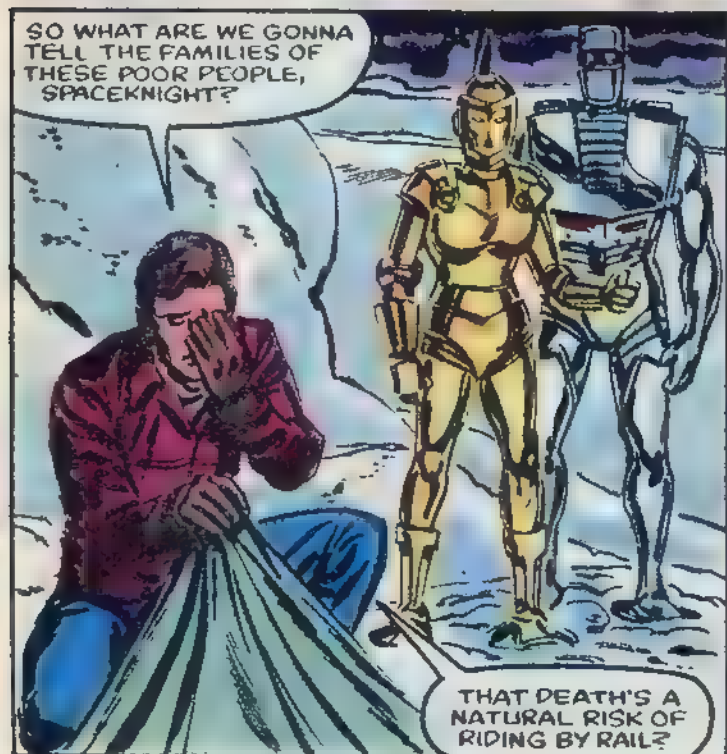
TO COVER IT ALL UP THE GENERAL MEANS!

A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE THAT REVELATION OF THE WRAITH THREAT WOULD CAUSE AN UNSURPASSABLE PANIC, RICK.



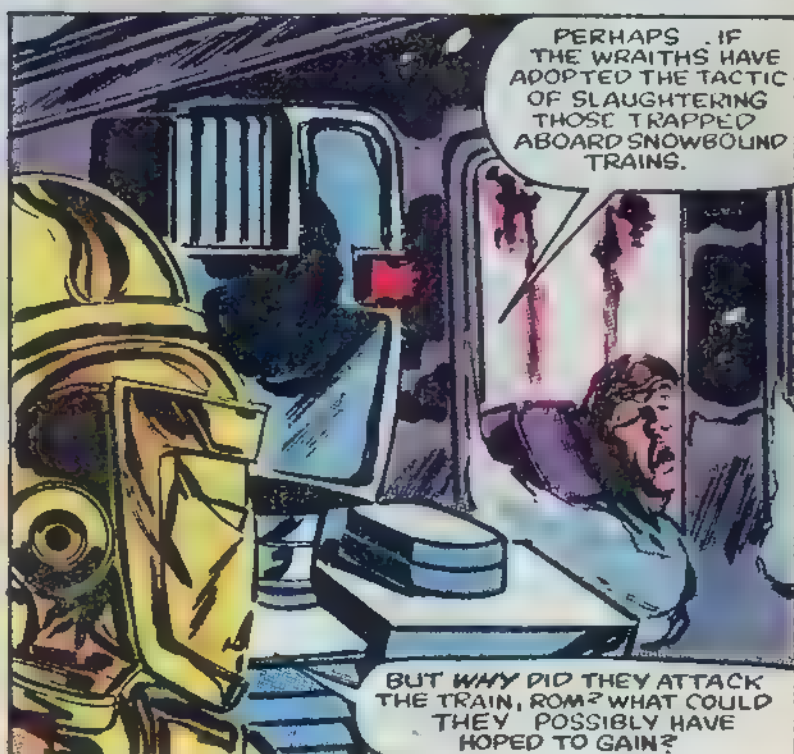
SO WHAT ARE WE GONNA TELL THE FAMILIES OF THESE POOR PEOPLE, SPACEKNIGHT?

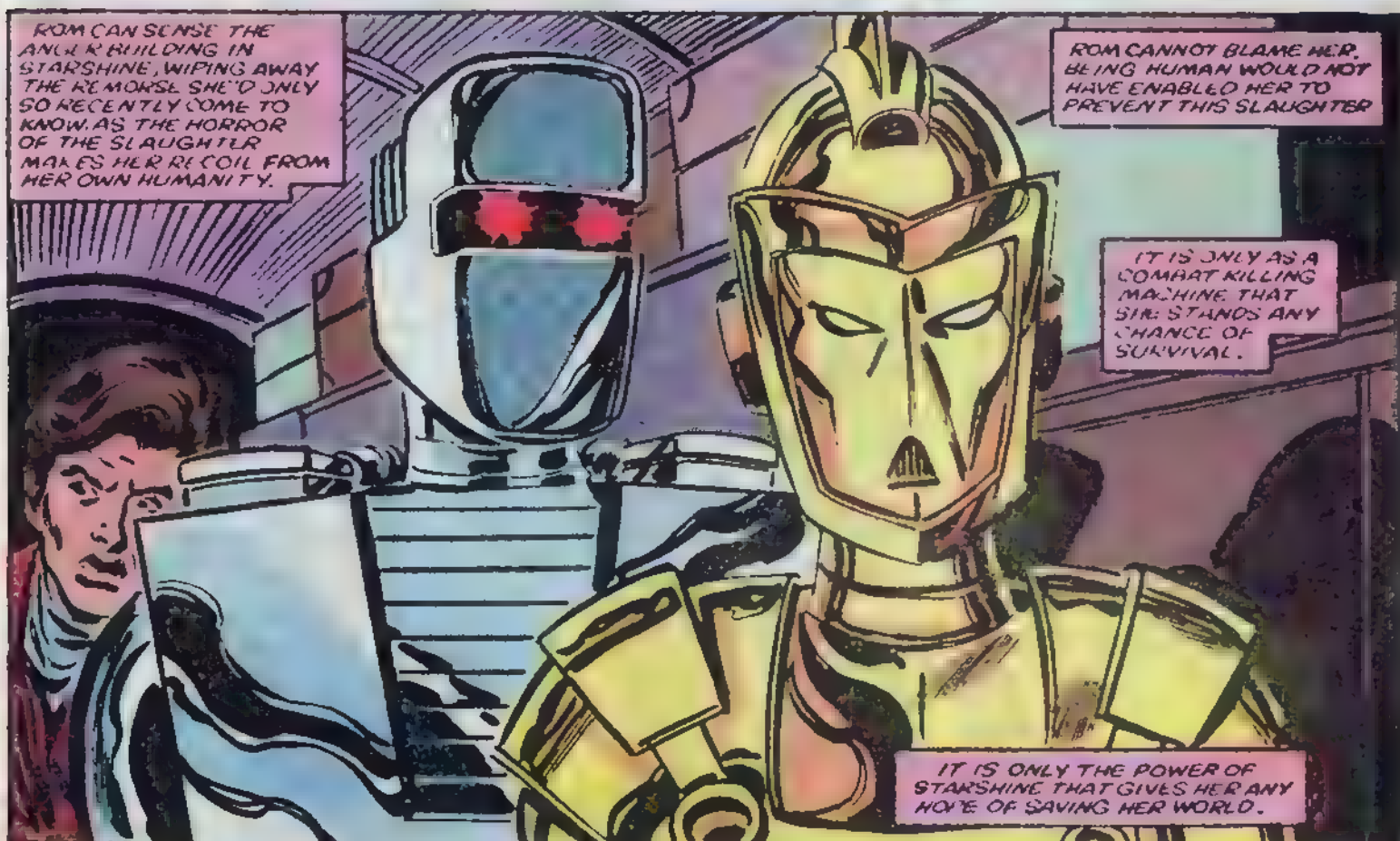
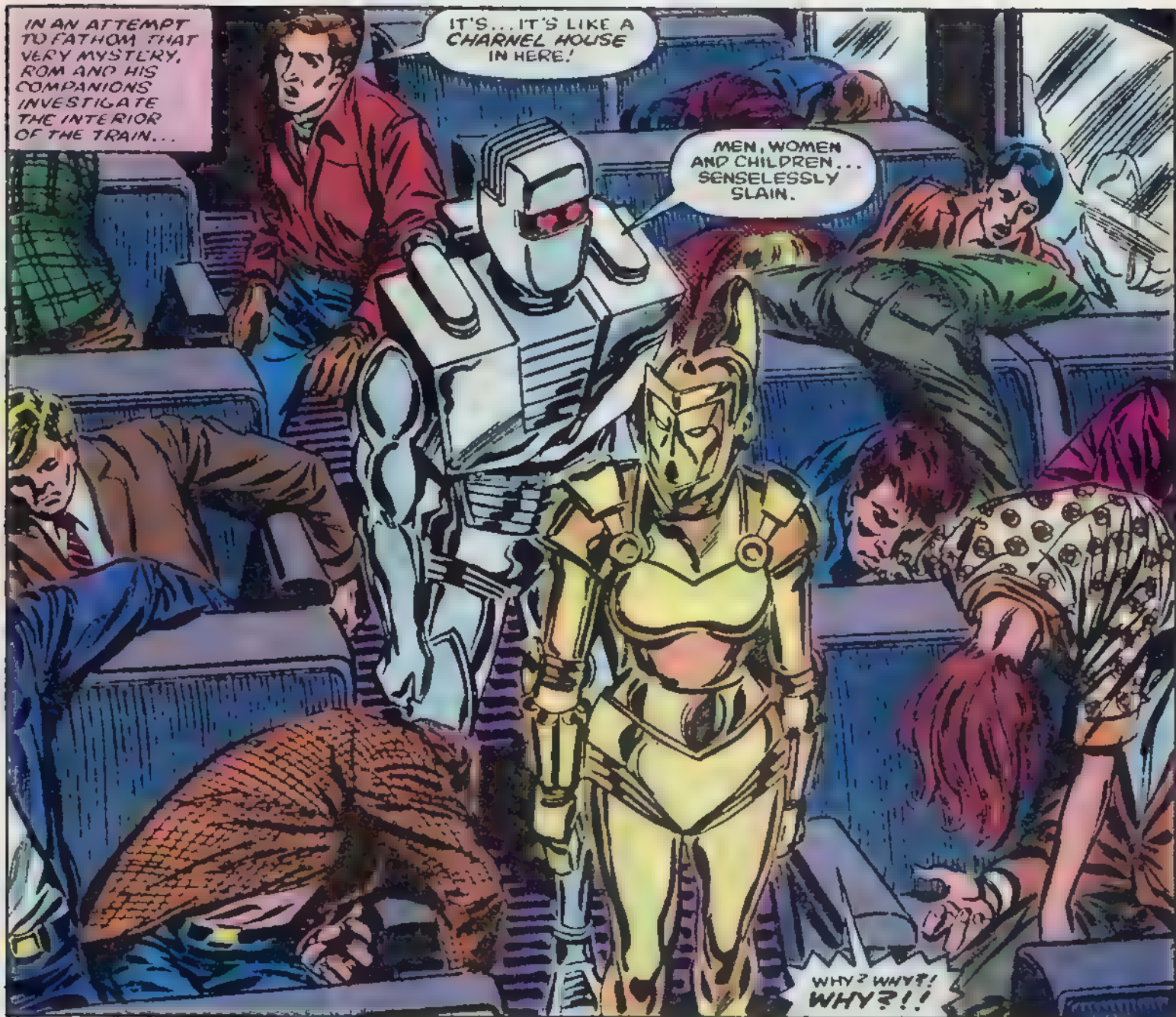
THAT DEATH'S A NATURAL RISK OF RIDING BY RAIL?

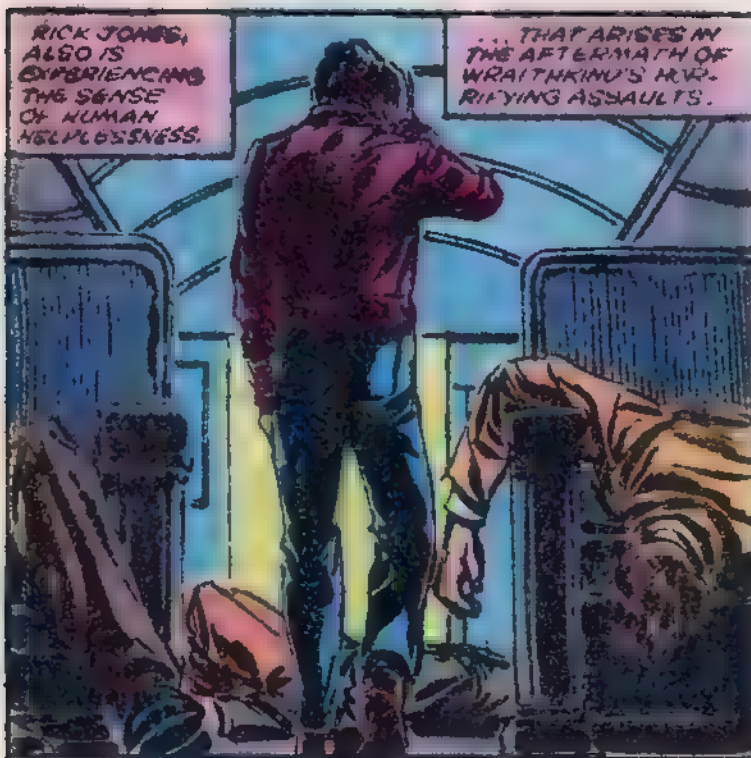


PERHAPS IF THE WRAITHS HAVE ADOPTED THE TACTIC OF SLAUGHTERING THOSE TRAPPED ABOARD SNOWBOUND TRAINS.

BUT WHY DID THEY ATTACK THE TRAIN, ROM? WHAT COULD THEY POSSIBLY HAVE HOPED TO GAIN?

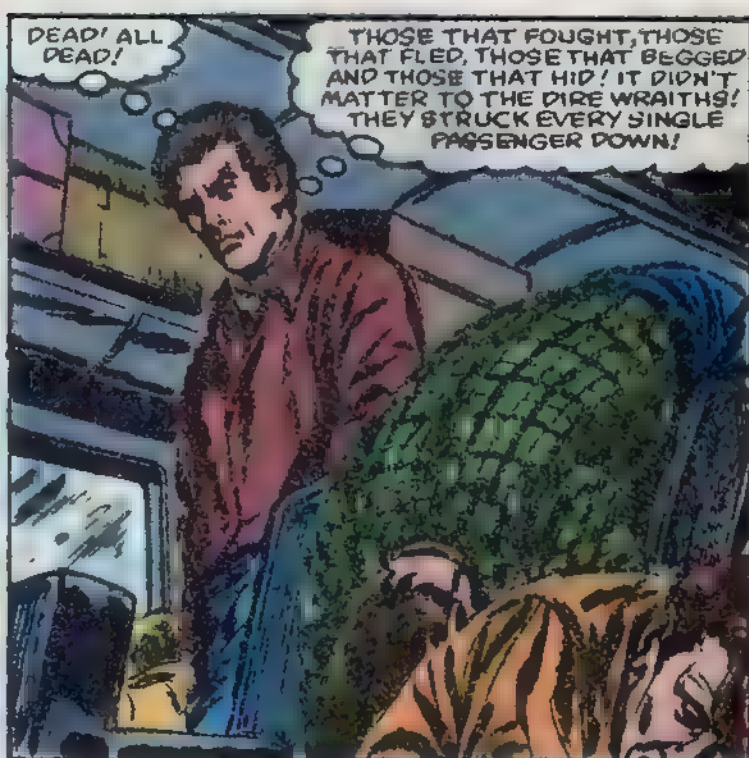






RICK JONES, ALSO IS EXPERIENCING THE SENSE OF HUMAN HELPLESSNESS.

... THAT ARISES IN THE AFTERMATH OF WRAITHKIN'S MURDERIFYING ASSAULTS.



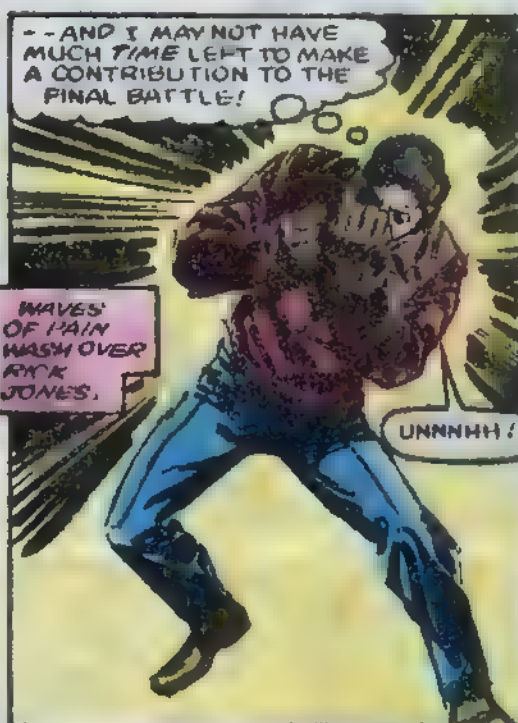
DEAD! ALL DEAD!

THOSE THAT FOUGHT, THOSE THAT FLED, THOSE THAT BEGGED AND THOSE THAT HID! IT DIDN'T MATTER TO THE DIRE WRAITHS! THEY STRUCK EVERY SINGLE PASSENGER DOWN!



SO WHAT CAN YOU DO IN THE FACE OF AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ALIEN INVADER?

SO FAR, NOT A WHOLE HECK OF A LOT--



-- AND I MAY NOT HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FINAL BATTLE!

WAVES OF PAIN WASH OVER RICK JONES.

UNNNHH!



SOMETIMES... IT TAKES A SPASM LIKE THAT... TO REMIND ME OF MY OWN STUPIDITY! IF I HADN'T... EXPOSED MYSELF TO GAMMA RAYS... IN AN ATTEMPT TO BECOME A SECOND MULK... *

*SEE MULK #269-270

I WOULDN'T BE DYING OF CANCER NOW!



NO, INSTEAD I'D BE JUST ANOTHER POTENTIALLY HEALTHY VICTIM FOR THE WRAITHS TO SLAUGHTER! SOME CHOICE! WHAT A LIFE!

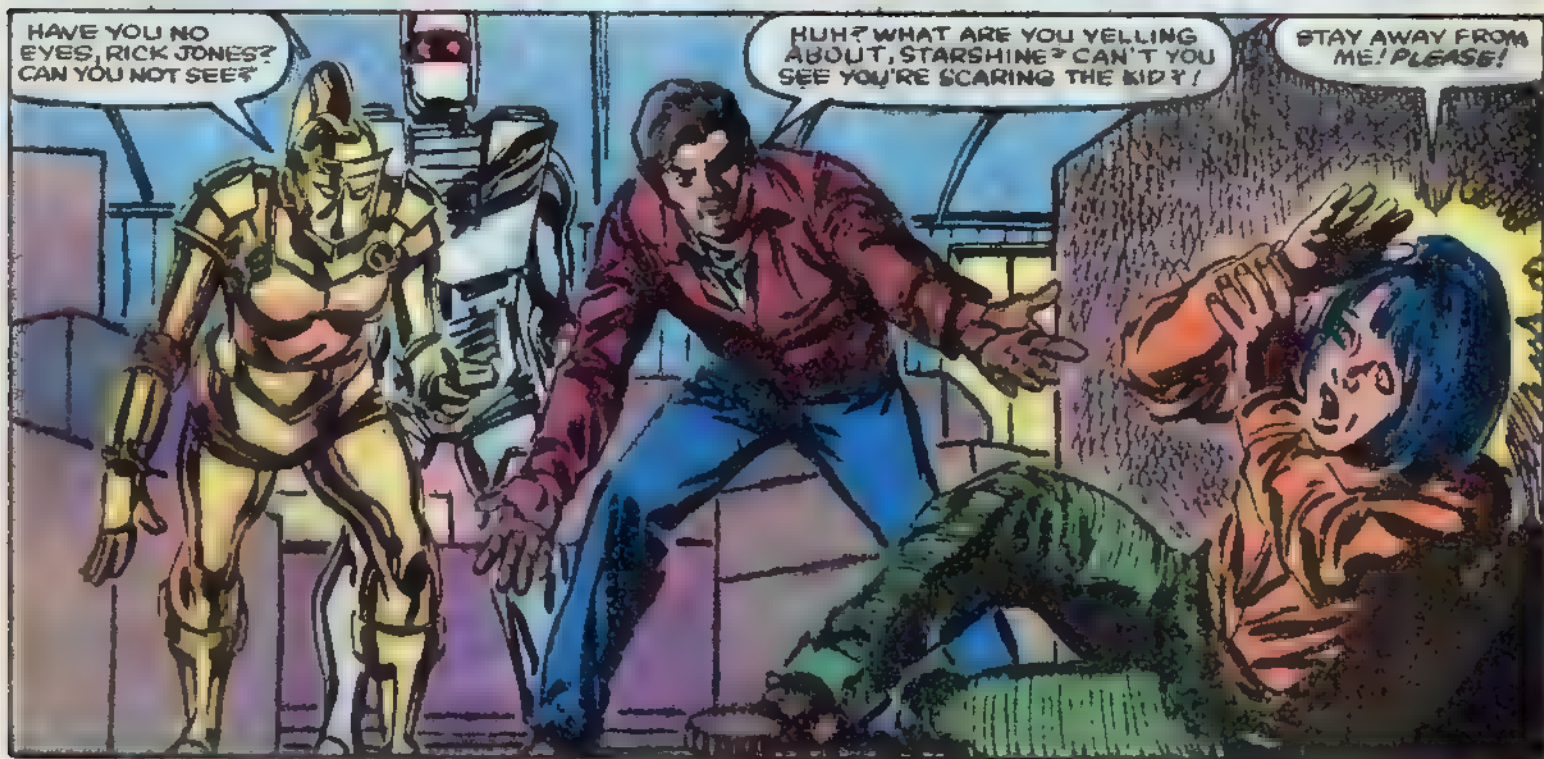
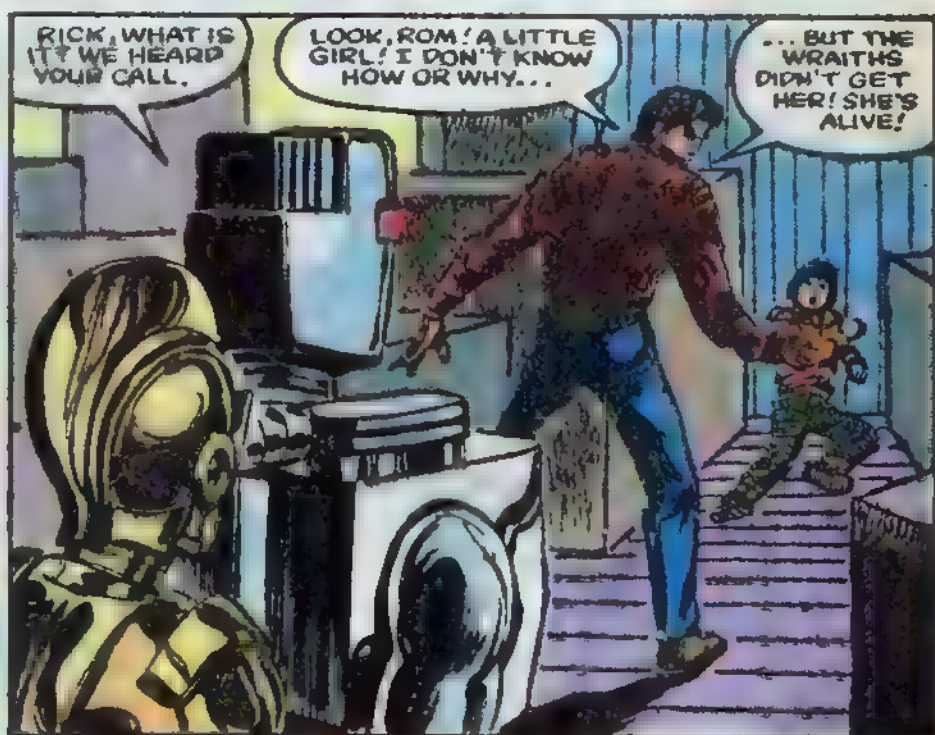
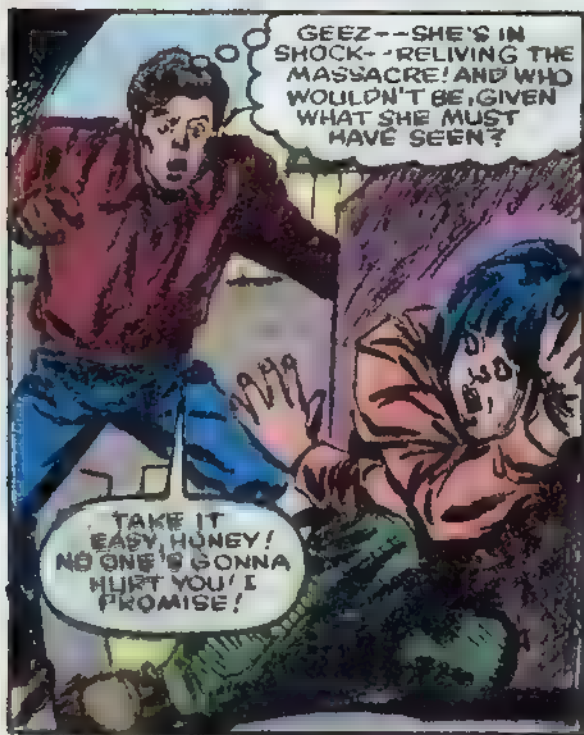
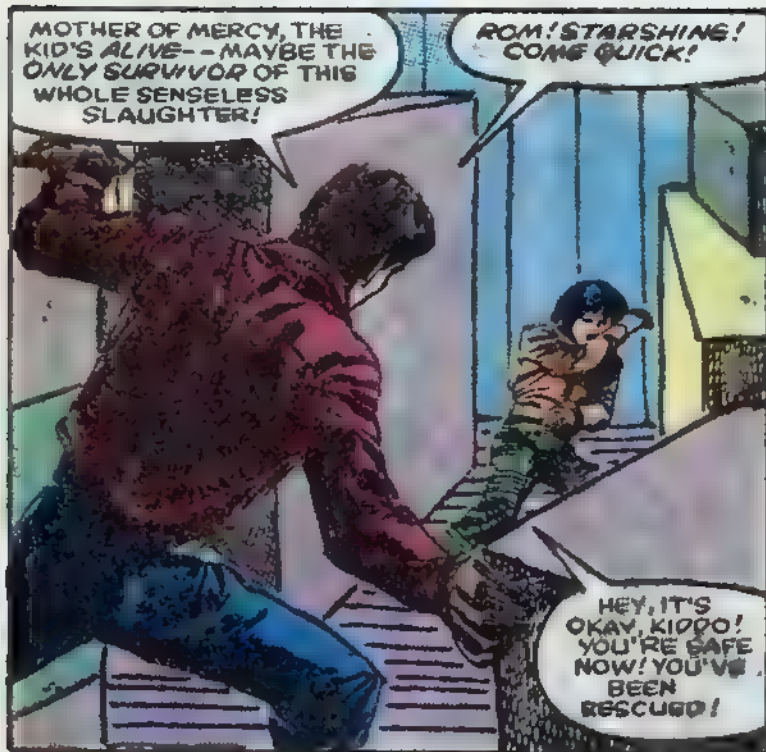
HOLY SMOKES! WHAT'S THAT BEHIND THOSE BOXES?

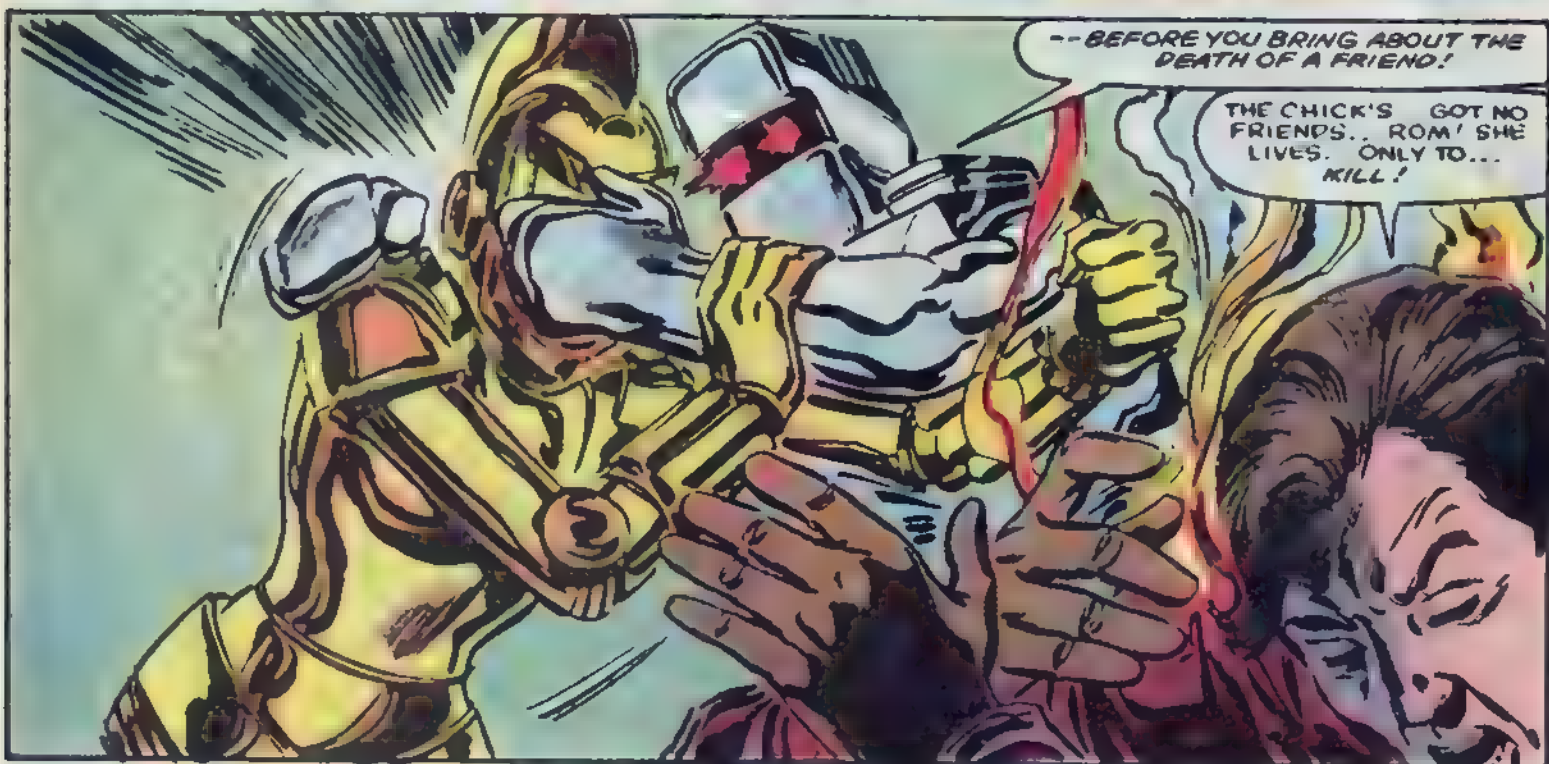
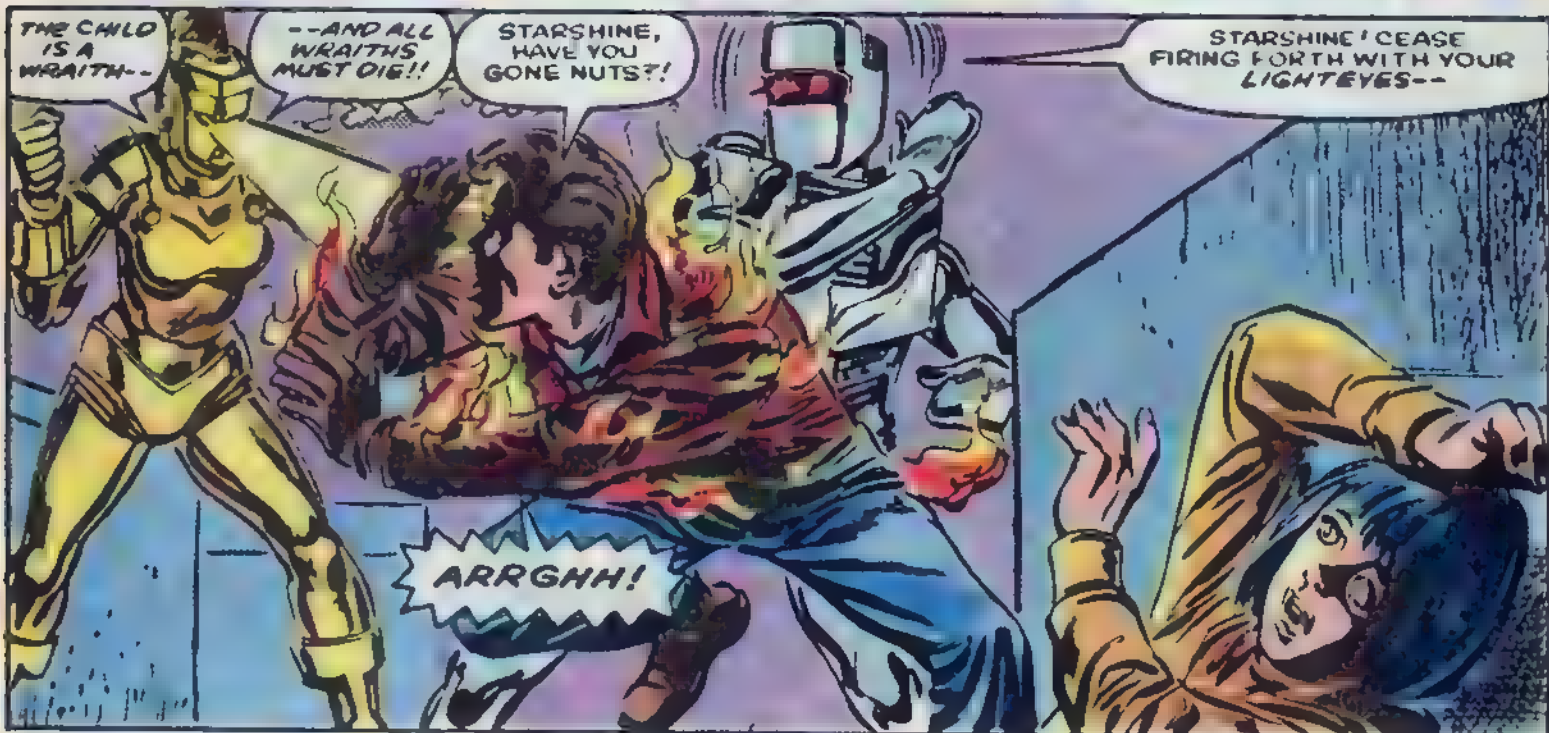
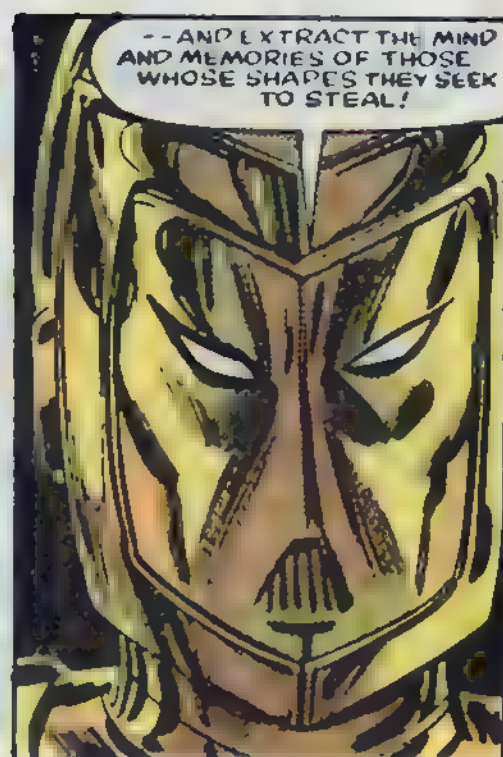
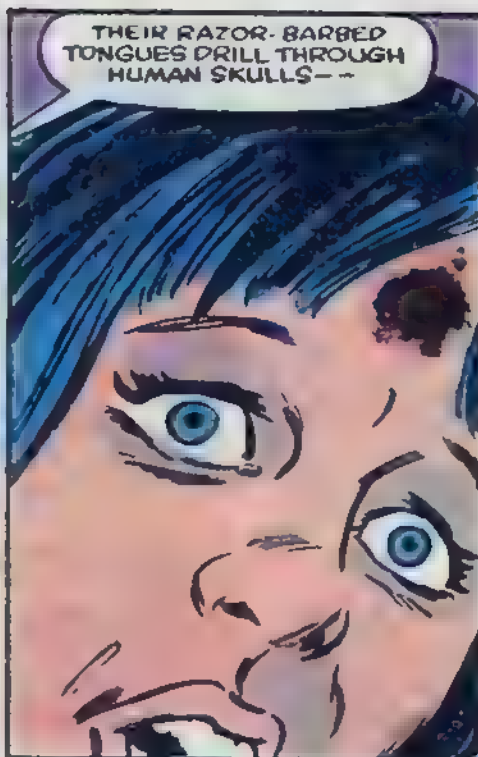


A LITTLE LEG! KID SIZE!

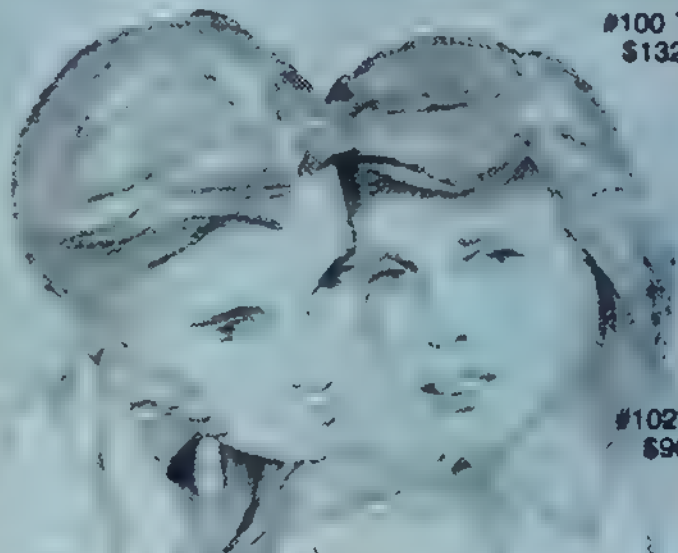
THOSE LOUSY, STINKING, KID-MURDERING WRAITHS!!

BUT A LOW MEWLING WHIMPER COMES FROM THE FREIGHT CAR... AND THE LEG MOVES

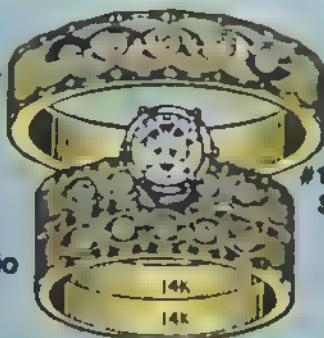




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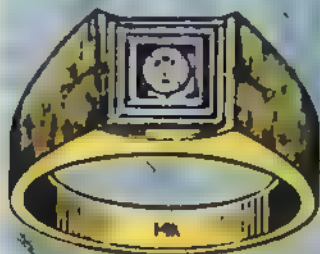


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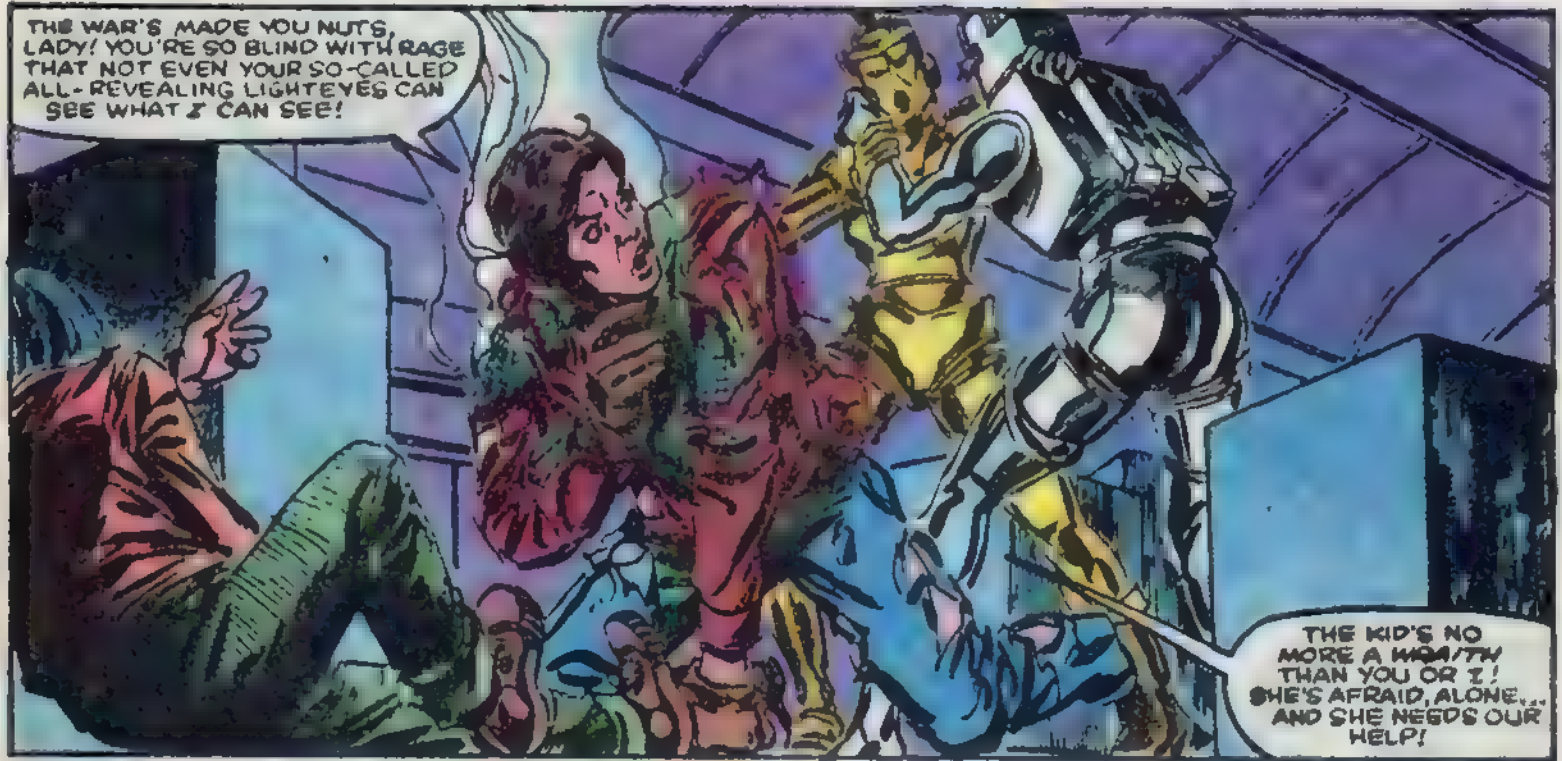
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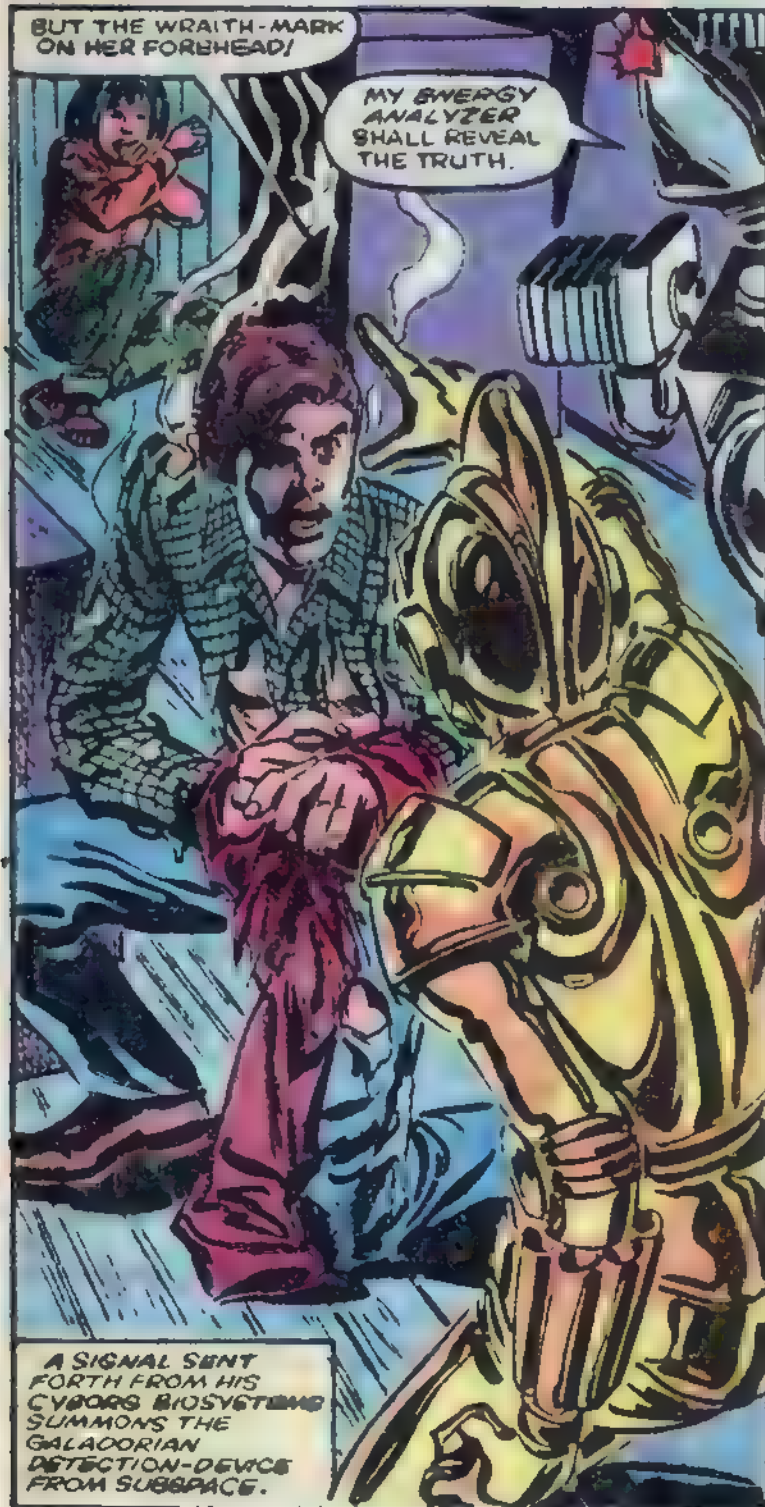
Clip out — wrap finger — mark line at arrow point — mail with coupon.





THE WAR'S MADE YOU NUTS, LADY! YOU'RE SO BLIND WITH RAGE THAT NOT EVEN YOUR SO-CALLED ALL-REVEALING LIGHTEYES CAN SEE WHAT I CAN SEE!

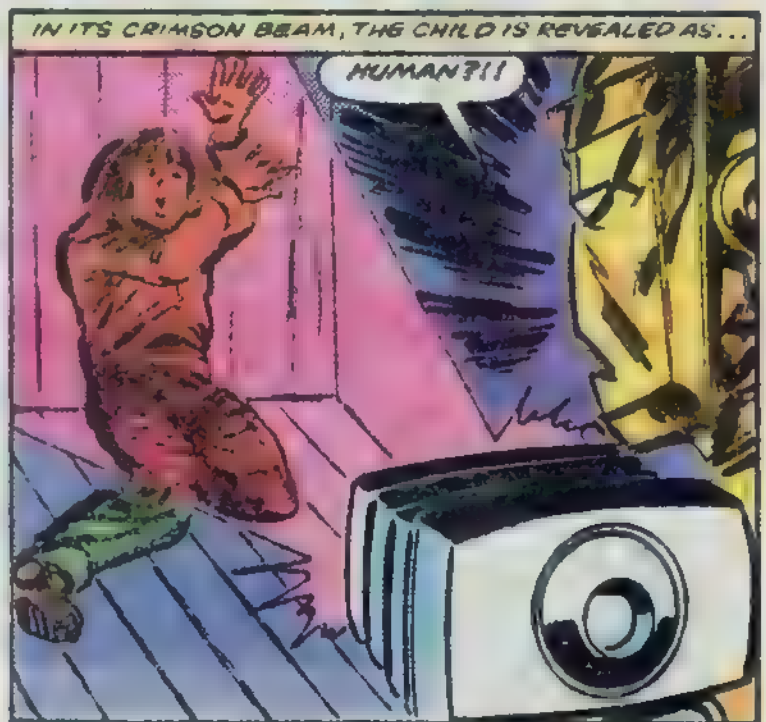
THE KID'S NO MORE A WRAITH THAN YOU OR I! SHE'S AFRAID, ALONE... AND SHE NEEDS OUR HELP!



BUT THE WRAITH-MARK ON HER FOREHEAD!

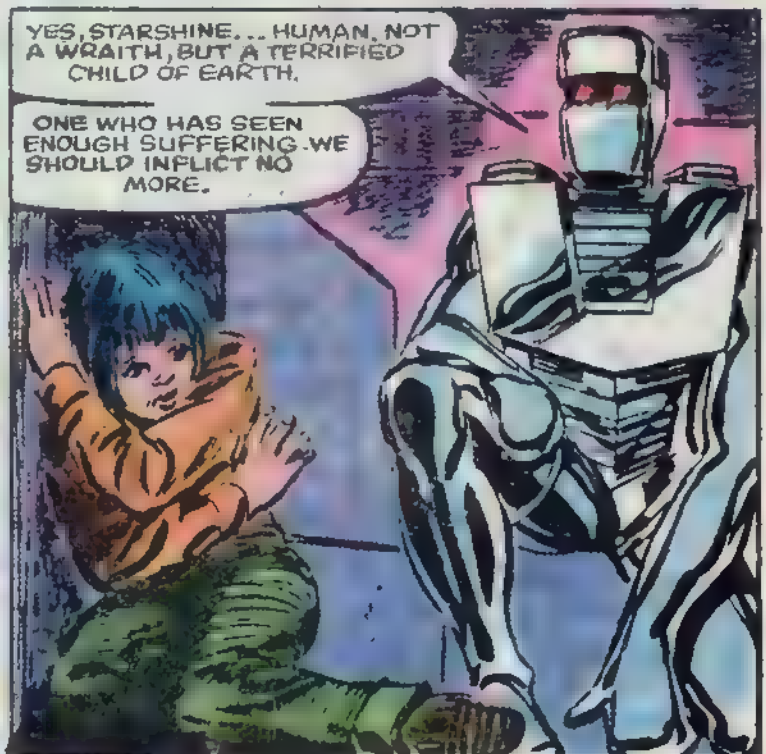
MY ENERGY ANALYZER SHALL REVEAL THE TRUTH.

A SIGNAL SENT FORTH FROM HIS CYBORG BIOSYSTEMS SUMMONS THE GALADORIAN DETECTION-DEVICE FROM SUBSPACE.



IN ITS CRIMSON BEAM, THE CHILD IS REVEALED AS...

HUMAN?!!



YES, STARSHINE... HUMAN. NOT A WRAITH, BUT A TERRIFIED CHILD OF EARTH.

ONE WHO HAS SEEN ENOUGH SUFFERING. WE SHOULD INFLICT NO MORE.

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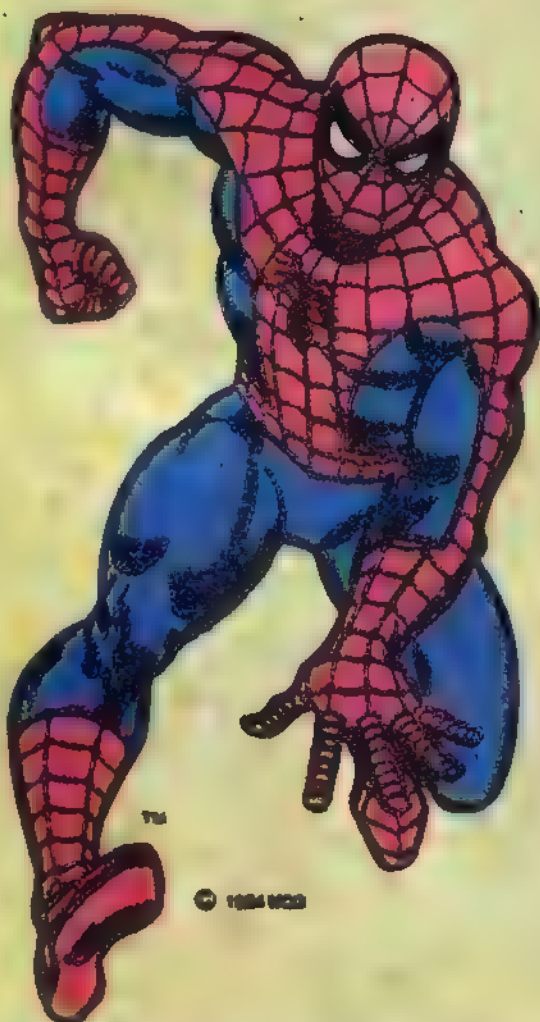
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[illegible]

THE GREAT SILVER SPACEKNIGHT
KNEELS BEFORE THE TREMBLING
CHILD SHE CRINGES BACK.

I MEAN YOU NO
HARM, DAUGHTER
OF EARTH.

IT IS SAID
ROM'S VOICE
IS COLD AND
EMOTIONLESS...

... THAT HIS
CYBORG EYES
BLAZE
EXPRESSION-
LESSLY BRIGHT

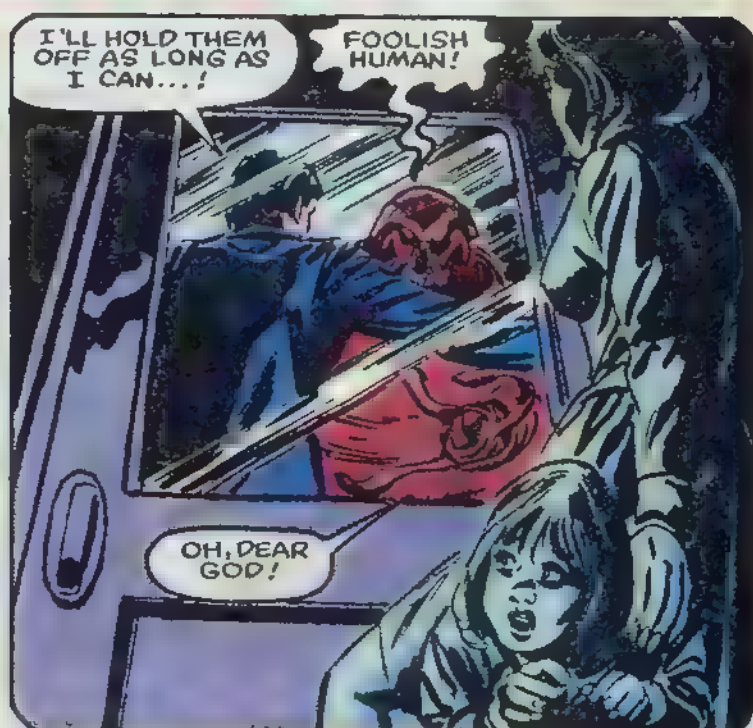
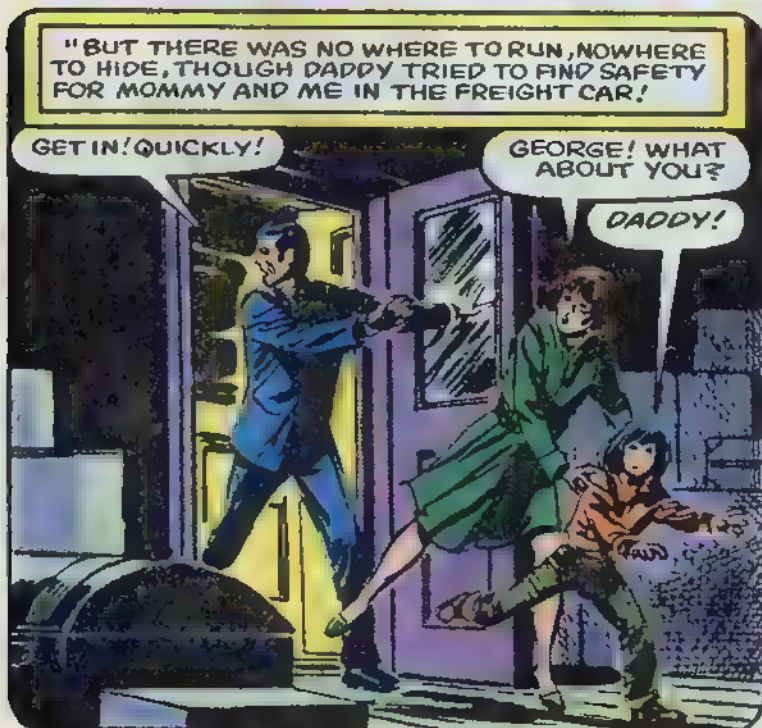
BUT THE CHILD RESPONDS
TO SOMETHING ABOUT
THIS MAN FROM ANOTHER
PLANET.

SOMETHING WHICH ENABLES HER TO PLACE
HERSELF IN HIS COMFORTING PLANIADIUM
HANDS, AND TO SOB OUT THE HORRORS OF
HER SOUL AGAINST HIS GLEAMING SPACE-
KNIGHT BREAST.

ASK HER WHAT
HAPPENED TO HER,
ROM! ASK HER
ABOUT... THE
WRAITHS!

THE MERE MENTION OF THE
UNEARTHLY NAME PROVOKES
TREMBLING ANEW IN THE
TERRIFIED CHILD, BUT, AS IF
UNABLE TO HELP HERSELF,
SHE TURNS HER MEMORY
BACK UPON THE RECENT
PAST AND CRIES!

I SAW THEM! BLACK
WITH WINGS! SWOOPING
DOWN FROM OUT OF THE
SNOWS!



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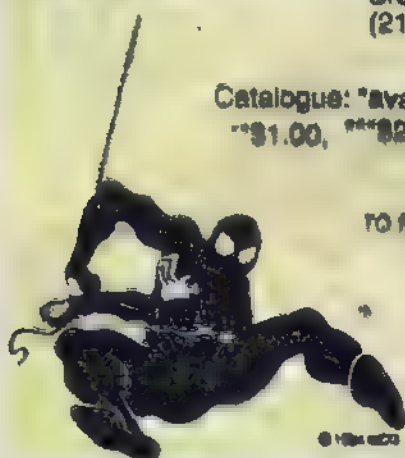
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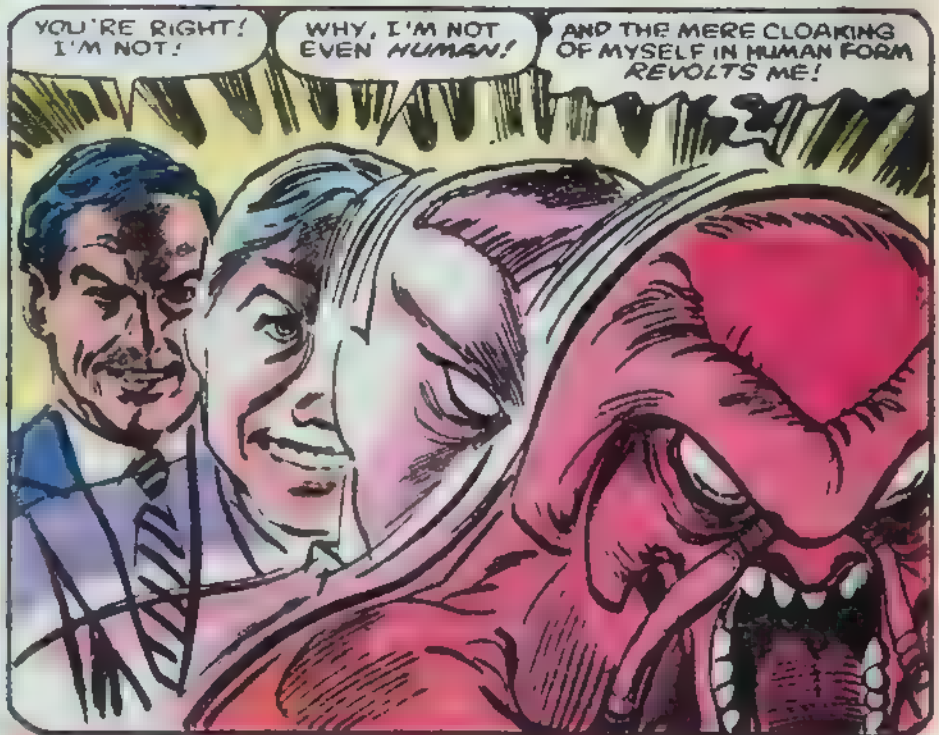
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Bullpen Bulletins

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE THIS...

It originally appeared in *Marvel Age*, our official news magazine. I reprint it here because it's the answer to a question I am frequently asked by people who write in, namely, "what do you do as Editor in Chief," and because I've received specific requests to reprint it here.

Okay?

When I was a bit younger, one day it occurred to me that Marvel Comics could be even better than they were, if only the people who made them would hire a bright, knowledgeable fan — like me — to read over the stuff they were doing before it went out, catch some of the little gaffs, check the continuity, give creative advice from the fan point of view, and in general, guard

the integrity of the Marvel Universe.

Well, they *did* hire such a person — me, in fact — back in 1978. Since then, I've learned how hard it is to do all of the above — even when you're vested with the absolute, staggering authority and wonderfully nifty title of Editor in Chief.

It still amazes me sometimes, being Editor in Chief — being pretty much in charge of all the comics and magazines Marvel publishes and all of the editors and other people who work on them.

But, I haven't forgotten what the title really should be — something like *Executive Fan Representative*, or maybe *Designated Fan*. And, I haven't lost sight of what I'd hoped to accomplish way back when, before I got this job.

Like I said, as it turns out, it isn't easy.

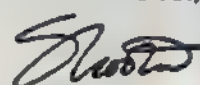
But, I'm still trying. And I'm getting better at it, I think. I hope you'll

agree, after reading about what each of our Marvel Editors has coming up, and I hope you'll agree even more after you've seen it all unfold in the comics issue by issue.

If you don't... or even if you do, let me know. You know my address, and you know I read every single letter. Hey, if I'm going to be the DF here, I've got to keep in touch, right?

That's it! To those who already read the above, thanks for your patience, and to those who hadn't, I hope you liked it. Tune in next month for an all-new column. Guaranteed!

Best,



Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

HYPE BOX

KITTY AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series)

#1 — Two of your favorite X-MEN star in their own six-issue limited series! Kitty Pryde uncovers a dreaded secret about her father and follows him to Japan. Once there, she becomes embroiled in trouble with a powerful Japanese warlord. Will Wolverine be able to save her in time? A masterpiece in the making. Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT and illustrated by AL MILGROM!

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BLACK PANTHER (Limited Series) #1

— The King of Wakanda returns in his own four-issue limited series! But there is trouble in Wakanda as the Black Panther takes the greatest crisis of his life! Will he return his heritage as the ruler of Wakanda, or will he become the Black Panther no more? Don't miss this Marvel masterpiece by PETER GILLIS, DENYS COWAN, and SAM DELAROSA!

GRAPHIC NOVEL #12 — STEVE GERBER

and VAL MAYERIK, the team who first brought you HOWARD THE DUCK, return to Marvel with their latest epic creation, VOID INDIGO! In a savage era before the dawn of history, four sorcerers committed a heinous crime of torture and murder — and thought they got away with it. They are about to find out they were wrong! This beautifully painted Graphic Novel launches the new EPIC COMICS series, so don't miss it!

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— Head honcho JIM SHOOTER takes you on step-by-step guide through the comic creation process, and give you a chance to try out your skills, to boot! The TRY-OUT BOOK is printed on full-size art paper just like the Marvel pros use! It includes pages to color, to letter to ink (over JOHN ROMITA JR.'s pulsing pencils!) to script, and to pencil! You'll even be able to plot your own ending to the thrilling SPIDER-MAN tale presented within! Then, if you think your work is good enough, you can submit your pages to Marvel and have them appraised by a real live Marvel Editor! Don't wait, cause this book is great! It's available in comic shops and book stores (that's right, book stores) all across the country! If they're sold out, don't despair! Demand them to order more copies direct from the publisher, CROWN BOOKS. So you have no excuse to wait any longer! Find out why Marveldom Assembled is singing the praises of the OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK!

CHECK LIST

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- ☐ DAREDEVIL #212
- ☐ THE MUPPETS #1, 2 & 3 — Featuring the Marvel adaptation of their new movie, "The Muppets Take Manhattan. Will Marvel ever be the same again?"
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER-HEROES: THE SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #7
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #21 — Double sized excitement by CHRIS CLAREMONT and BILL SIENKIEWICZ
- ☐ CONAN THE KING #25
- ☐ PETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #4
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #258
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #299
- ☐ THOR #349
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #23
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- ☐ CRYSTAR #10
- ☐ SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #3
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- ☐ TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #18

- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #301
- ☐ AVENGERS #249
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #164
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #160 — Reporting "The Claws of the Cat," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO from *Amazing Spider-Man* #70
- ☐ X-MEN #187
- ☐ ROM #60
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #111
- ☐ G.I. JOE #29
- ☐ TEMPLE OF DOOM (Limited Series) #3
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- ☐ THOR ANNUAL #12
- ☐ AVENGERS ANNUAL #13
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #272
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #147 — Featuring *Spider-Man* and *The Human Torch*
- ☐ IRON MAN #188
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #96
- ☐ DEFENDERS #137
- ☐ STAR WARS #89
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #18
- ☐ STARRIORS (Limited Series) #1 — Man is but a legend, and the robots rule. See Hype Box.
- ☐ HULK ANNUAL #13

- ☐ KITTY AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #1 — What dark secret is Kitty's father trying to hide? See Hype Box.
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #2

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- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #105
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- ☐ MARVEL AGE #20

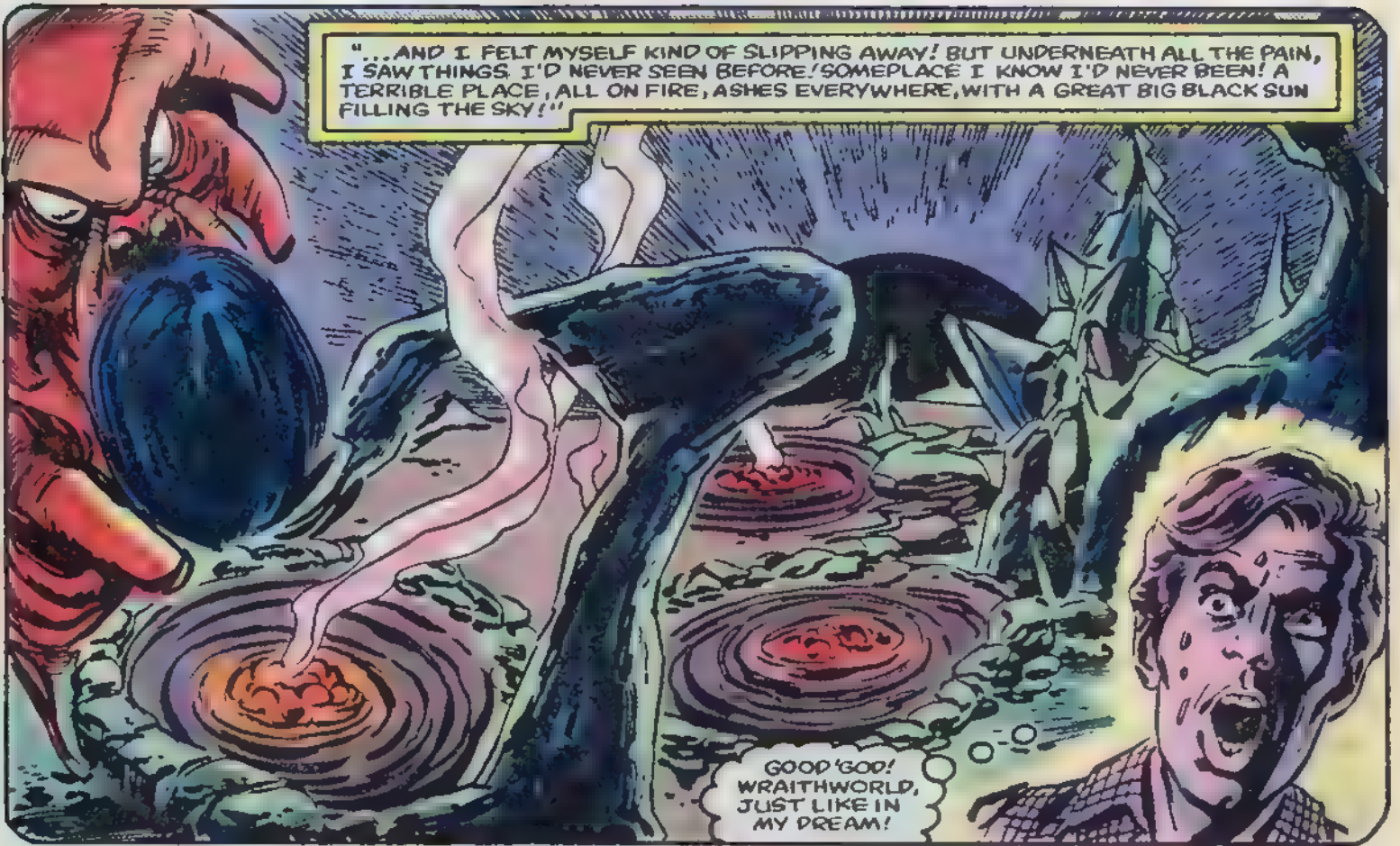
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- ☐ SUPERSPECIAL #34: SHEENA OF THE JUNGLE — The Queen of the Jungle stars in the Marvel adaptation of her blockbuster movie! Written by CARY BURKETT. Art by GRAY MORROW
- ☐ GRAPHIC NOVEL #12: VOID INDIGO — See Hype Box.

"...AND I FELT MYSELF KIND OF SLIPPING AWAY! BUT UNDERNEATH ALL THE PAIN, I SAW THINGS I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE! SOMEPLACE I KNOW I'D NEVER BEEN! A TERRIBLE PLACE, ALL ON FIRE, ASHES EVERYWHERE, WITH A GREAT BIG BLACK SUN FILLING THE SKY!"



GOOD 'GOD!
WRAITHWORLD,
JUST LIKE IN
MY DREAM!

"THEN MOMMY DID
SOMETHING! THE
MONSTER SCREAMED..."



"... AND I SAW
THE FLASH OF A
KNIFE AND THE
PAIN WENT AWAY.

"THOUGH MOMMY
HURT THE MONSTER,
IT WAS STILL ALIVE!
I-I COULDN'T
LOOK ANYMORE!"

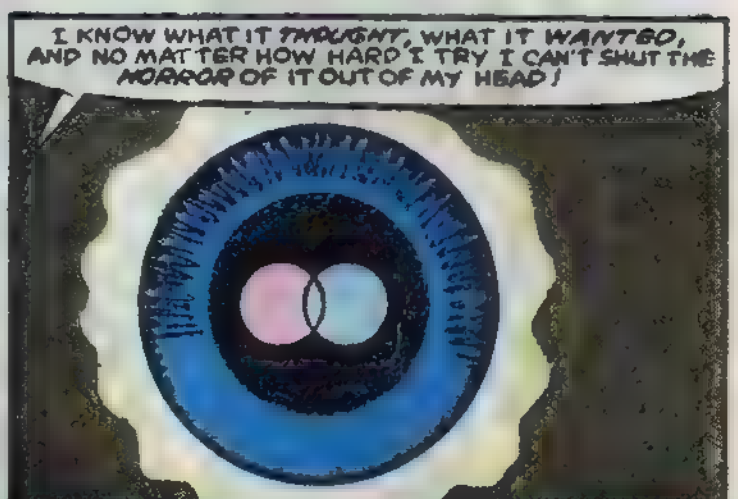
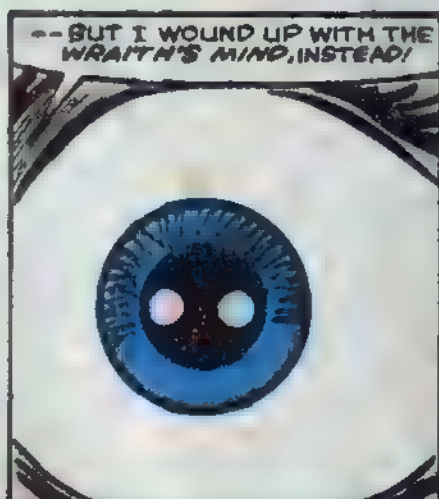
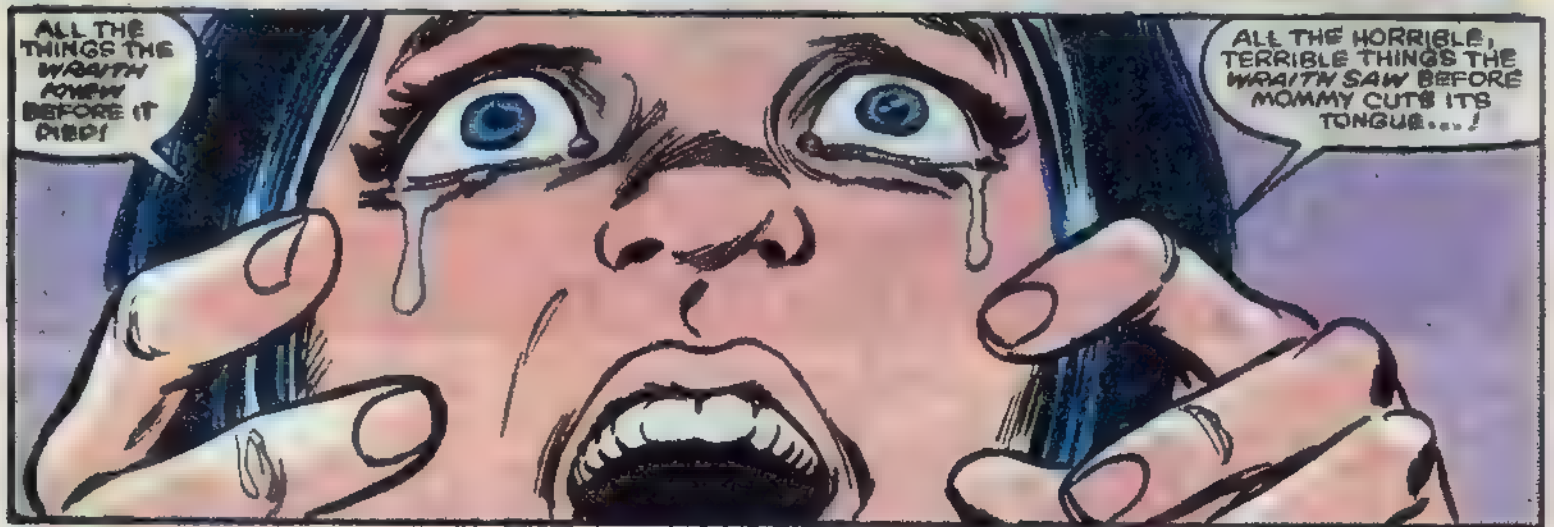
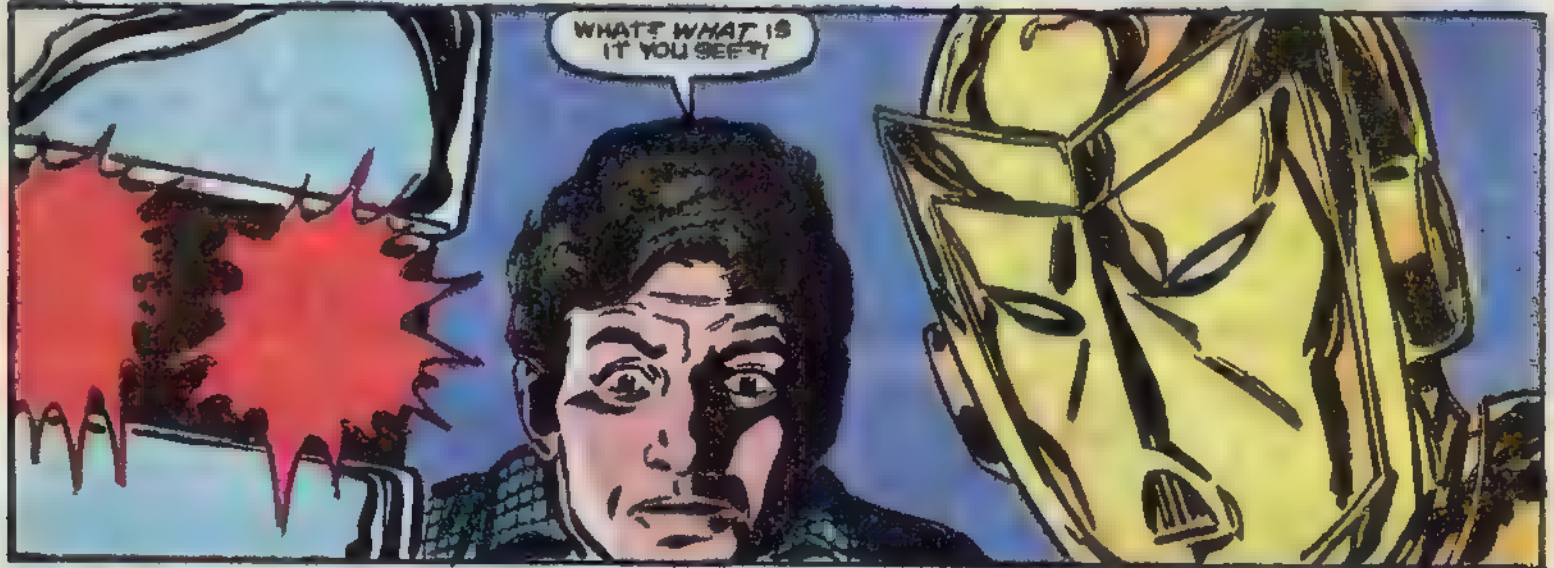


"I CRAWLED AWAY, HID, UNTIL
ALL THE SCREAMING STOPPED..."



"... AND STAYED HID WITH MY
HANDS PRESSED TIGHT OVER MY
EYES!"





THE SPACEKNIGHTS SHUDDER AT THE CHILD'S SCREAM FOR, IN THE EYES OF THE CHILD, THEY CAN SEE A VISION OF TWO WORLDS MERGING, COMING TOGETHER, AS EARTH IS TRANSFORMED BY WRAITHKIND INTO AN UNHOLY LANDSCAPE OF HELL!

TO BE CONTINUED!

SPACE NOTES

MICHAEL CARLIN: editor-MICHAEL HIGGINS: assistant editor
*** MARVEL COMICS GROUP-387 Park Avenue South-New York, New York-10016**

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Editors,

"Blood Trail" in issue #54 of ROM proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Dire Wraiths are the vilest, most corrupt, chaotic, evil creatures of our galaxy! What power they wield!

The art is excellent and the storyline full of action and intrigue. Thanks for the guest-appearance of Dr. Strangel I get downright angry when I see Wraiths at work. We've got to obliterate them! I'm with Starshine — the heck with Limbo — kill 'em all! (Whew, destructive, aren't I?)

I know by the time that this sees print the fate of Rick Jones will be history, so I can only hope he's not totally lost to us. Rick now has a chance to assume a role in the Marvel Universe that he richly deserves. I daresay Marvel owes it to him!

C.K.

8801 Cinnamon Creek Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78240

Dear Folks,

I'd like to begin by saying that I don't usually write letters to the comic book industry but I feel ROM #54 was so good it deserves a comment. In fact, aside from this specific issue, I like the whole format of ROM. Besides the superior writing and above-average art, I am particularly excited about the reappearance of Rick Jones. Please do not allow this character to fade once again into "limbo" — or worse. I like the use of other Marvel characters, such as the Avengers and Alpha Flight (if rumors are true), in ROM. Not only does it expose readers to other heroes, but it also serves to give them a greater sense of continuity in the Marvel Universe. All in all, ROM is a superior comic magazine and one I hope to be reading for a long time to come! Keep up the good work!

Howard E. Dubovsky
1206 Hillside Rd.
Canton, Ohio

While Alpha Flight has appeared in ROM in recent months, the Avengers have not, but did you happen to catch the dastardly Dire Wraiths' recent appearances in issues of the AVENGERS' own magazine? Any of you readers who did catch those issues notice what a bang-up job Mark Gruenwald's doing as the editor on that book? He's got the creative team (Roger Stern, Al Milgrom and Joe Sinnott) pitting the A's against such awesome menaces that they had to branch out with a California fanclub team (the WEST COAST AVENGERS limited series by Stern, Bob Hall and Brett Breeding — still on sale). And how about the job Mark's new assistant — *whatsisname* — is doin' proof-reading those books. Again, awesome!

Gentlebeings,

Well, the Wraith War is out in the open and careening along to, hopefully, a climactic conclusion in the not-too-distant future. I, for one, am happy about that. It's never made sense to me that heroes like the Fantastic Four, the X-Men, Dr. Strange, Power Man, and Iron Fist, all knew that the Earth had been invaded by aliens and yet had

done virtually nothing about it. I realize that such an all-out effort would have wreaked havoc with continuity in other books but it's hard to believe that Dr. Strange, who is sworn to protect the Earth, and Reed Richards, with all his resources, would have just sat back and let perhaps the most important battle in the history of their world be waged by another. Regardless of how noble and capable Rom is, it's still not consistent with the past behavior of the Super Heroes.

In any case I wasn't really writing about that, and I'm not writing to tell you how much I deplored the wanton slaughter of the Torpedo and most of the rest of the supporting cast in the issues leading up to and including ROM #50. I'm not writing to tell you how much I've liked Bill Sienkiewicz's striking covers of the past few issues, either.

No, what I'd like to talk about here is the young man who entered the book in issue #54... my friend and yours, Rick Jones. I don't know what exactly you have in mind for the erstwhile Mr. Jones, but please remember that Rick has been more than just a hanger-on with the Hulk, Captains America and Mar-Vell, and the Avengers... he has been a hero in his own right many times. I cringed when the doctor said he had cancer. Not again, damn it! It may be hokey to admit that some of my heroes are the super kind, but I've been reading comics since I was 8 years old and I still get a charge out of them all these years later. Despite yourself, you tend to get involved with the characters, to really care. Comic books have always been magic places filled with villains and monsters and adventure and beautiful girls, but, most of all — heroes.

If they must die, heroes should die heroically. It seems that it has become fashionable for heroes to die ignoble deaths as victims. The Torpedo's death at the hands of the Wraiths is one example. That the Patriot (a one-time Captain America) and Captain Mar-Vell succumbed to something that is at once as awful and as mundane as cancer is almost unpardonable.

I truly hope that this letter is premature and that I'm way off target, but if Rick Jones has been brought into ROM to die, don't let him die on his back as a victim of cancer or as a helpless pawn of the Wraiths... let him die as he lived... as a hero! (Don't get me wrong guys, letting him live a full and healthy life would be even better!)

Thanks for listening.

Michael K. Willis
10919 Whitehall Circle
San Diego, CA 92126

Thanks for writing.

Well, it certainly looks like Rick Jones has a lot of friends out there. Every letter we received had something to say about Rick and the majority of them seemed to be either glowing praise or worried concern for our hapless hero.

We'll keep on rooting for him along with the rest of you and, as recent issues have shown, Rick has no intention of lying around on his back waiting for the inevitable. He is facing the threat

to his world and the threat to himself with the same bravery and conviction that he has always displayed as one of Mighty Marvel's oft-unsung heroes.

Marvel,

I am 24 years old and I have just read my first comic book. After reading ROM #54, "Blood Trail," all I can say is better late than never! I had always assumed comics were for kids, but not anymore. Rom is presented as a particularly compassionate cyborg/man and I enjoyed the way he sent the Wraiths to limbo instead of terminating them. Believe it or not, I'm looking forward to the next issue eagerly, although my girlfriend will never understand the reason I've started reading Marvel comics. All I can tell her is that they're fun!

Ray Gale

1 W. 72 Street
N.Y., NY

That's the kid inside you talking, Ray, and that's exactly who we're writing for — the kid inside of all of us, young and old.

Dear Marvel,

Will Rom ever fight anyone besides the Dire Wraiths?

Danny Lichtenfeld
Huntington, L.I.

Is there anyone else to fight, Danny? Seriously, Rom has fought his share of Earth-born villains but at the moment he's somewhat preoccupied with waging a war, and as soon as that's over...

Well, just stick around and see. We guarantee you'll be pleased with the direction this book will be taking in the months ahead. You won't want to miss a single issue!

THIS JUST IN...

ITEM: Omigod! We almost forgot to tell you about one of the biggest events of the summer comic buying season! In three short weeks the 1984 ROM ANNUAL will be streaking your way (That's #3 for all you counts and countesses out there). And when we say this one's gonna be big we're not talkin' dimensions... Served up by the Bill Mantlo, William Johnson and Ian Akin / Brian Garvey team, this year's annual depicts the end of a Space Knight's career, guest stars THE NEW MUTANTS and features the return of one of ROM's most egregious of enemies! We can't believe some of you are still here reading this... get out there and set up your pup tent outside of your favorite comics emporium and be the first on your block... et cetera and so on.

NEXT ISSUE: Things are lookin' pretty grim for ROM and all of mankind when the Wraiths' current attempt to overthrow the Earth triggers "The Beginning of the End of the World". That's ROM #61 by Bill Mantlo, Steve Ditko and Jackson "Butch" Gulick! We're shakin' in our boots already, what say you?

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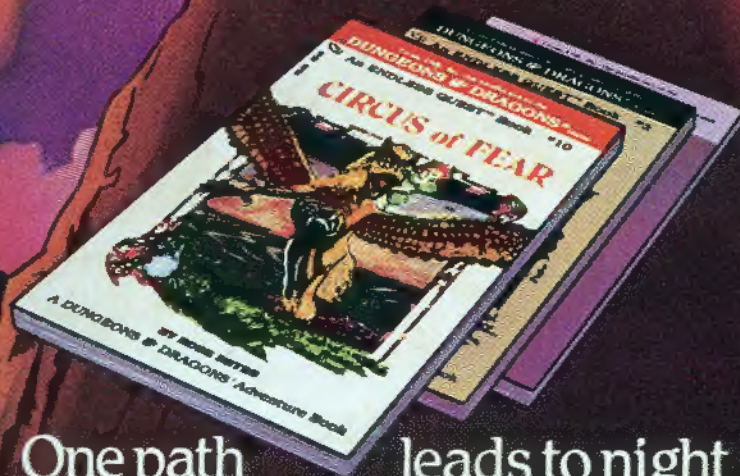
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